



DISCOVERING NEW SPACES



**Mission
EineWelt**

Weil es uns bewegt!

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Dear readers,

A report about a year that was almost entirely overshadowed by a globally raging pandemic with social distancing, lockdowns and extremely scarce means for meeting in analogue spaces... How is that supposed to look?

Limbo? – Agony? – Everything ground to a halt?

We are still a little surprised and very grateful that this wasn’t the case. While you are reading the following reports, of course corona will be mentioned repeatedly. However, the main focus will not be on what didn’t work. On the contrary: Where the pandemic put the brakes on usual business, other options kept opening up. Digital space could not replace analogue, but with a lot of effort and creativity, formats and possibilities arose that we won’t

want to forego even after the pandemic – because they opened up new forms and aspects of international collaboration in particular.

And so, looking back, we can say: Mission OneWorld kept on moving despite corona. We worked and made progress. We are delighted about this and thank God!

Warm regards,


Dr. Gabriele Hoerschelmann (Director of Mission OneWorld)


DMin Hanns Hoerschelmann (Director Mission OneWorld)





Together at one table



D. MIN. HANNS &
DR. GABRIELE HOERSCHELMANN
Directors of Mission EineWelt

We are sitting in front of our computers and waiting for the next videoconference to start. Unusually, not in our shared office, but rather one working from home, the other in the red-brick house on the site of Mission OneWorld. The reason for this setting is today's entry in the calendar: job interviews. The participants' tiles pop up one after the other. The final touches are agreed, and then things kick off.

The aim is to select staff for various fields of work in our partner churches. For one, the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church has requested reinforcement in church educational work; and in Papua New Guinea, they wish to complete the youth work team. Despite all the cost-cutting measures and also some conceptual debates in churches' global interrelations, for Mission OneWorld and thus also the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria, staff exchanges form an important linchpin in "walking side by side". The impetus always comes from a partner flagging up a need. We don't have "jobs" in the partner churches, but rather we or the partners request support for a certain field of work. And another thing – staff exchanges have long since stopped running one-way. People from Bavaria work in the partner churches, and staff from Asia, the Pacific, Africa or Latin America enrich our own regional church.

However, this important contribution to intertwining cultures also always presents a major challenge. Does the person fit the required role? Will communications work cross-culturally? How will the rest of their family fare? Will their partner and children fit into the new surroundings? Indeed,

what are their reasons for being interested in working abroad?

These are all questions that we try to answer as well as possible during various rounds of discussions with the applicants. The meetings that used to take place face-to-face now happen online, of course, in times of corona. The direct contact is lost, and with it the chance for this aspect to form part of the decision-making process. After all, foreign placements are not only about specialist skills, but require an open mind towards other cultures and living conditions – and of course a certain taste for adventure also won't go amiss. One of the basic skills called for is also flexibility. And things hardly ever turn out in the end as ... you ... didn't see that coming, did you?!

Having said that, corona has also enriched our experience in this regard. Besides the tiles of the applicants and other people involved in this aspect of our work, we have repeatedly welcomed representatives of our partner churches to these rounds of interviews for a good year now. This means that they are directly involved from the start, and they get to hear and see who is interested in working for them. They ask questions, intervene and ultimately help deliberate whether people are a good match or not. Sometimes you wonder Why we didn't hit upon this idea earlier?

Gabriele and Hanns Hoerschelmann

+++ TELEGRAM +++

+++ JANUARY +++

The Nuremberg Toy Trade Fair was host to the unveiling of the concept behind the Fair Toys Organisation (FTO).

The



Foto: Thomas Nagel

FTO is set to function as a platform for groups in civil society and the

toys industry to make sure that human, labour and environmental rights are upheld throughout the manufacturing process for toys. The concept was developed primarily by the Fair Toys Federation in Nuremberg, of which Mission OneWorld is a member.

+++ FEBRUARY +++

The final business trip in corona year 2020: Visit to the Lutheran World Federation in Geneva together with the Regional Secretaries for Africa and PPE.

+++ MARCH +++

Learning through play. The 20th Bavarian Museums' Day included the award of the "Teaching in Museums" sponsorship. One of the three winners was the standing exhibition "einBlick" ("inSight") by Mission OneWorld, based on a learning-by-playing concept co-developed with the eLearning team. The official presentation ceremony took place on 4 March 2020 in the exhibition rooms.

Mission OneWorld supported the urgent petition launched by Green MEP Sven Giegold calling for refugees at the border between Greece and Turkey to be treated in a humane and proper manner. "The current police practice of rigidly fortifying the EU's external borders between Greece and Turkey to keep out refugees fundamentally contravenes our Christian values and convictions," said Gabriele Hoerschelmann. "Securing borders cannot override human rights."

The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank called upon lending governments to relieve the poorest countries' debts in order to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The debt relief alliance erlassjahr.de and Mission OneWorld welcomed the proposal and called upon the German federal government to act without delay.

+++ APRIL +++

Concerned by the impact of the corona crisis, Mission OneWorld set up an aid fund for people in the partner countries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria



(ELCB) and appealed for donations. Every donation to the fund would be matched by the regional church.

Mission OneWorld launched a campaign called “Because you’re important to me” to encourage people to wear masks.

German conglomerate Bayer AG sells pesticides to Brazil whose main components are not authorised in the EU, some of which are classified as extremely hazardous. The Supply Chain Law Initiative calls upon the German federal government to legally oblige Bayer and other companies to exercise due care with regard to human rights and environmental welfare.

+++ JULY +++
The Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK) donated 300 masks to Mission OneWorld and Augustana Divinity School.
The Fair Toys Organisation (FTO) was officially founded.
The Worldwide Church Festival took place online due to the corona pandemic.

the fund, and matched by the ELCB.

+++ AUGUST +++

Helge Neuschwander-Lutz passed away at the age of 64 after a long, severe illness. The former Head of Press/Media had spent more than 40 years working for the Bavarian Mission Agency, Mission OneWorld (MOW) and the Evangelical Mission Agency in Germany (EMA). Most recently, he had taken over the helm at Erlanger Verlag publishing house after going into retirement.



Mission OneWorld and the Pacific Info Point took part in the Remembrance Day for Hiroshima in Nuremberg.

+++ OCTOBER +++

Mission OneWorld concluded the several-year process considering its future, and decided to restructure its work within Germany. The focal working points in the areas of education, partnerships and meetings would be merged as of 2023 within the two new departments Global Education and Worldwide Encounters.

The sixth round of negotiations for the UN Binding Treaty commenced in Geneva on 26 October, with the aim of effectively implementing the UN’s Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). All the signatory states committed to legally enshrining the treaty’s directives on human and labour rights and protecting the environment, thus making it possible to challenge in court any failure to uphold them. In addition, the rights anchored in the treaty would then take precedence over trade agreements, particularly any regulations included on protecting investments. More than 100 states actively participated in the negotiations, with Germany and the EU maintaining their purely passive status as observers.

+++ NOVEMBER +++

The Bavarian Deaconry Missions’ officers and pastors met online for the 25th Missions and Partnerships Conference. The new year campaign by Mission OneWorld and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria entitled “Redemption – Not for Sale” was officially launched at the event.

The 12th Synod of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) passed a resolution supporting calls for a supply chain law including provision for liability, joining the Supply Chain Law Initiative at the same time.
The EU Commission’s controversial Pact on Migration and Asylum prompted the passing of a 9-Point Catalogue calling, amongst other things, for the humane treatment of refugees, recommencement of state-organised sea rescues, a distribution plan for refugees throughout the

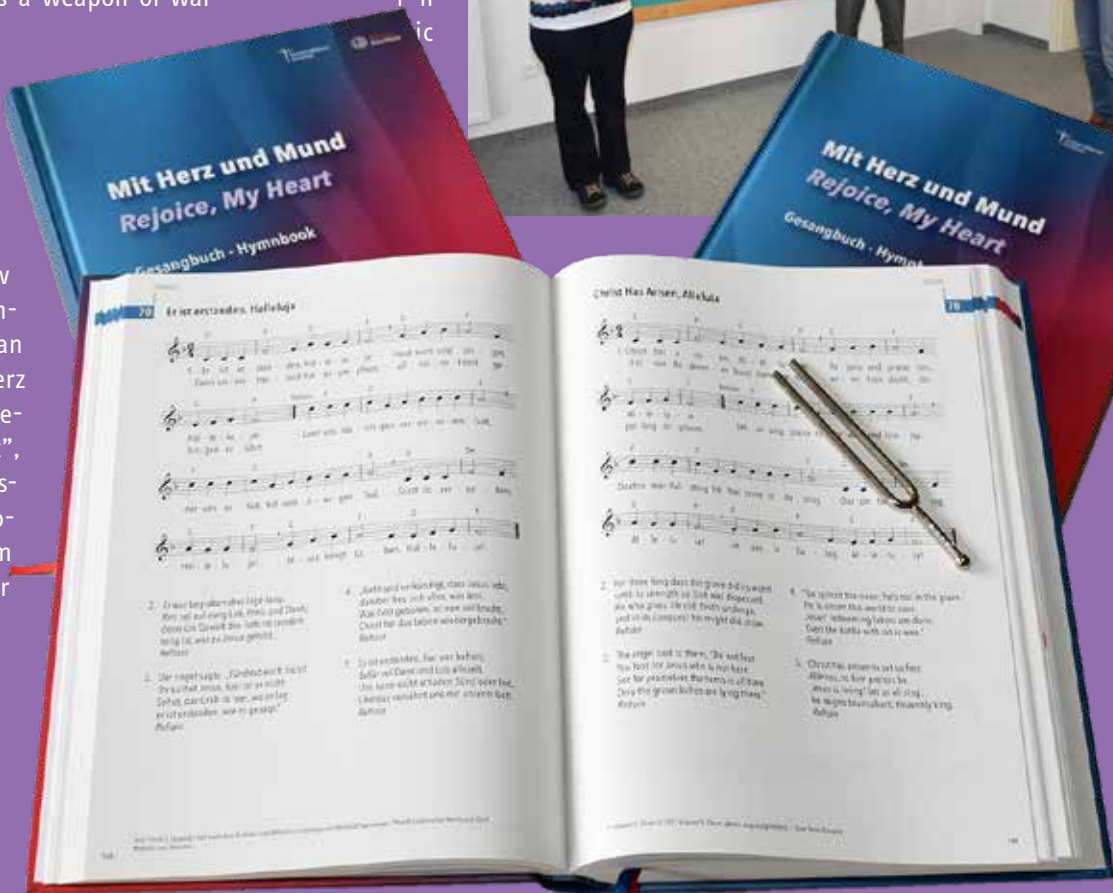
SCHLUSS MIT VERGEWALTIGUNG ALS KRIEGSWAFFE

UNTERSCHREIBE JETZT!

EU, gradual abolition of camps along the lines of “Moria”, an extensive partnership with lands of origin to constructively combat structural motivations for refugees, and the creation or expansion of legal migration routes.

+++ DECEMBER +++

To mark the Day of Human Rights on 10 December, Mission OneWorld, the Centre for Partnership, Development and Mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria, and the Congo Campaign demanded an end to sexualised violence as a weapon of war in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
Together with the Institute of Worship, Mission OneWorld compiled a new song book in English and German Entitled “Mit Herz und Mund – Rejoice, my Heart”, containing classical and modern songs from churches all over world.



Fest der weltweiten Kirche online

The sermon during the online service of worship was given by the Tanzanian theologian Emmanuel Kileo. Contributors to the panel discussion: Silvia Genz, President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brazil; Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, Regional Bishop of the ELCB and Council President of the EKD; Jack Urame, Chief Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea; Fredrick Onael Shoo, Chief Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania; and Gabriele Hoerschelmann. The session was chaired by Julia Ratzmann.

The “Like a tree” international youth gathering, run by Mission OneWorld in conjunction with Evangelical Youth of Bavaria (ejb), took place online due to the corona pandemic. A group of 25 participants, aged between 18 and 32 years old, who are actively involved in church youth work, signed up from Africa, eastern Asia, Papua New Guinea, Latin America and Europe.

Interim total for the Corona Emergency Aid Fund: By the end of July, more than 215,000 euros had been donated to

+++ TELEGRAM +++

+++ JANUARY +++

Rev. Klaus Dotzer was officially installed as the new Head of the Department for Africa on 18 January 2020. A church is there for the people – that is his vision: “At the end of the day, whatever we do as churches must somehow filter down at some point to benefit the lives of the people at the grassroots in our parishes – in Africa, and here at home. This is how my own work as Officer for Africa will have to be gauged.”

The European partners of PROCMU-RA (Programme for



Work on Christian-Muslim Meetings in Africa, with headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya) met 24-26 January for their annual conference in Doorn, Netherlands, to discuss the previous year's work and visit the large mosque in Utrecht. Klaus Dotzer represented Mission OneWorld and was introduced to the duo in charge of the Kenyan programme – Rev. Drake from Togo and Joy Wandabwa from Kenya.



+++ FEBRUARY +++

In total, 72 people attended the two-day compliance seminar held on 12-13 February in Arusha (pictured above). Delegates from four of the ELCB's African partner churches (from Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Mozambique and Liberia) came along to receive information and training on the future financial procedures for handling MOW funding. No sooner in post than dispatched abroad: MOW Compliance Manager Christina Engels-Müller teaching in Arusha.

High spirits at the end of the workshop: MOW caps as badges of compliance training (top picture).



Deaconess Marianne Lorenz, dispatched by MOW to advise on youth work in the Lutheran Church in Liberia (LCL), and Jerome Jallah, President of Youth Work, wed on Valentine's Day in Monrovia. We wish the couple God's blessing from the bottom of our hearts!

From one bus driver to another: Impressions from a compliance workshop in Arusha

I was under the sceptical gaze of 72 pairs of African eyes at the compliance workshop in Arusha. As the new Head of MOW's Department for Africa, it was my job to open the workshop on the meaning, reason and purpose of the concept of compliance. Everyone knows that it's all about sticking to rules, so they were waiting to receive the latest catalogue of directives from the global north.

I told the story of Catherine, a small, wiry lady from western Kenya whom my wife and I had employed during our early years in Africa, in Nairobi. She helped us with the household and childcare. Catherine soon had our child, the household, my wife and myself under firm control. Even when the retired Kenyan Bishop Kahuthu visited



KLAUS DOTZER
Department for Africa

us, one look from Catherine prompted him to take off his shoes without a murmur, place them neatly in front of the door and enter bare-footed.

I knew that Catherine used her earnings to pay the school fees for her youngest grandson in their home village. The process in the pre-digital payments era worked as follows: Catherine knew a bus driver who transported the money in an envelope from Nairobi as far as Kakamega, a town in western Kenya. Where he handed it over to a second bus driver whom Catherine also knew, who took the package in a small taxi to her home village and handed it over to the family to pay the school fees.

On the days when the money was in transit, Catherine was always a bit on edge – until the message reached her from the village: “Money arrived, school fees paid.” Once, however, the message was: “Money hasn't arrived, can't pay school fees.”

Catherine didn't hang around, requested holiday, and set off. Where had the package gone astray en route? One week later, she returned. “Is everything okay?” my wife and I asked worriedly. Catherine nodded. I asked: “Did you really find the money to pay the school fees?” Catherine nodded. I continued: “How did you manage that?” Catherine's stern look made it clear that I had better not ask any further – after all, I was a pastor. It seemed that

the weakest link in the chain, who had thought to divert the package, had experienced a less than “love-thy-neighbour” come-uppance from Catherine ...

Of course, all 72 pairs of eyes in the room bobbed up and down spontaneously in agreement that Catherine had done the right thing. In the same way that I excused her, so did all the pastors present, should she have resorted to brutish methods to get her money back. After all, this was about her money and her youngest grandson's education. And that needs ensuring. But then the 72 pairs of eyes also understood the meaning behind the story just as spontaneously. Why should the church parishes and members in Germany react any differently from Catherine, and they themselves, when it comes to their money and what it is meant for? Always a bit on edge until they receive notification that their donation really has reached the church parishes in the partner countries to support the intended recipients.

The comparison between an institution such as Mission OneWorld and the first bus driver and between the church leadership of a partner country with the second bus driver, links in a transportation chain, might have dented the sense of honour felt by individual church dignitaries present, but this was quickly smiled off. Thus compliance was not to be seen as a new instrument of torture applied by rich Bavarians to poor Africans, but rather a heartfelt

Claus Heim and Klaus Dotzer were able to travel around Africa again from 14 to 26 February, after all. While Claus Heim visited dioceses and pro-



jects in Tanzania, Klaus Dotzer toured Kenya, South Africa and Mozambique. They finally both met up again with MOW colleagues at the Lutheran World Federation in Geneva.

Farewell to Bärbel and Johannes Löffler as they entered retirement, in the garden of the German congregation in Nairobi.

Easing the burden of donkeys and people. Plans are underway for a project to construct a well for the secondary school and community in the Evangelical Lutheran mountain parish of Manooni in Kenya.

Pupils from the PLCC project for children on the street (pictured right) in Nairobi with Kenyan staff members and Sophia Meyer, an MOW volunteer temporarily lending her expertise.

+++ JULY +++
A very small congregation strictly adhering to corona regulations celebrated a service of worship on 12 July to inaugurate Rev. Johnes Kutuk Ole Meliyio as Presiding Bishop and Rev. Lennox Kombe Mwarandu as Assistant Bishop of the Kenyan Evangelical Lutheran Church. The plan is to hold the official celebration, attended by all the KELC's international partners, once the corona pandemic has abated.

The Worldwide Church Festival was held online this year, on 19 July. Rev. Emmanuel Kileo from Moshi in Tanzania gave the sermon on Psalm 86, emphasising that every human life is always a journey. "We are all travelling – coming and going. Staying put is a luxury."

+++ OCTOBER +++
Rev. Anne Mika was sent on service from Regensburg to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) on 31 October. In the coastal city of Dar es Salaam, her duties will include



de caring for the German-speaking congregation and engaging in inter-faith dialogue. Her vision: "I would like to discover forms of spirituality in this completely different cultural circle and to take this chance to also question our own – partly cemented – structures."

Emergency corona aid
MOW's appeal in aid of emergency projects to combat corona in our partner churches were a success. All donations were matched by the regional church.

An MOW working group set out transparent criteria for applying for, conducting and accounting for projects, whose financial scope generally equated to
The first ever MOW/ELCB corona project: The Lutheran Church in Liberia (LCL) handed out masks and hygiene articles at its health centres (pictured above left).



Democratic Republic of Congo in April: First aid from the partnership circle of the Heilsbronn Convent arrived for the Women's Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Congo (ELC-Co) in Lubumbashi (pictured below).



Kenya in May: Strict lockdowns prevented many people from earning their everyday living. Rev. Margaret Obaga, head of the KELC Diakonia Department, handed out food packages in a working-class district in Nairobi. Further projects would follow. At the

end of the year, during November and December 2020, MOW staff members Markus and Sibylle Schmidt added corona-compliant waiting and treatments areas to Kimbeimbe Health Centre near Lubumbashi, DR Congo. Left: The new open-air waiting room with water and soap dispensers.



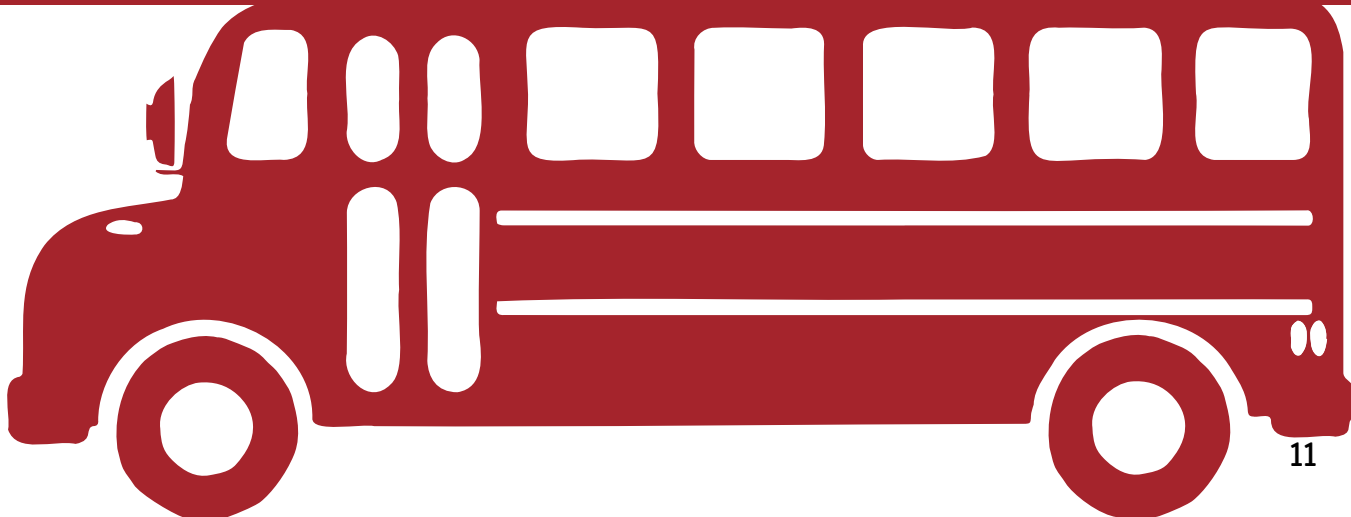
Kinga i bora kuliko tiba – prevention is better than cure. The United Republic of Tanzania took a very different path in combatting the pandemic. Mission OneWorld donated more than 100,000 euros to over 20 grassroots corona aid projects in our Tanzanian partner church ELCT.

matter for all human beings who wish to see their hard-earned money reaching the people they are trying to help. In Bavaria just as in Africa.

Further workshops then focused on how the parties involved can achieve this aim in the digital era as transparently, agreeably and benevolently as possible. We didn't get everything done – 2020 was also too short for that. But we are still working on things.

And whenever I talk on the phone or via Zoom with one of the 72 participants, I always enjoy hearing the humorous opener: "Hello, bus driver number one calling bus driver number two: We need to coordinate!"

Klaus Dotzer



Differently than intended

Who would have thought that the review of 2020 would end up being so utterly different from previous years? Who would have thought that the entire world would change so fundamentally within a few weeks and hardly anything continue to function the way we had been accustomed to for years? Almost everything that we took for granted, that was firmly established, that we considered oh so important and irrevocable, suddenly disappeared or changed quite dramatically.

As we embarked upon the new year, things still looked as if they would pan out quite normally. We were busy with annual reports, forwarding donations, intensive business trips to Papua New Guinea, Australia and Fiji. But all too soon the first reports emerged from China about a novel, aggressive virus.

Very quickly, this affected our volunteers in China, as their travel plans for the holidays there were abruptly cancelled. In the blink of an eye, they were stranded at their posts – enforced quarantine, lockdown, school closures, uncertainty as to how and when things would continue, worried parents. At that point, we still thought that this phenomenon could be limited to China and perhaps Hong Kong, and be over within a short time – how wrong we were! Then the crisis management machinery kicked in – intensive communications with envoys, partner churches and organisations, repatriation scenarios, booking flights, clarifying legal implications, and above all a hefty dose of uncertainty. Keeping our eyes open, increasing safety measures. Yes, we all had to first accustom ourselves to the new challenges. All events, groups of guests, business trips, secondments and meetings were cancelled; as much as possible, people worked remotely from home. And slowly a new normal emerged, with videoconferences becoming welcome opportunities for social interaction.

In our partner churches in the PPE region, we saw very similar situations arise – sometimes with a certain time delay – in terms of restrictions to church life, services of worship and the public arena. When the pandemic broke out here in Germany, we received numerous letters from our partner churches, offering their prayers and sympathy – a new experience for us. Normally, we are always the ones to send some kind of expression of solidarity to some crisis region in the world – it was interesting to be on the receiving end of such letters for once. This kick-started numerous trains of thought regarding what we really understood under the concept of “partnership”, and how this relates to many limbs of the one body of Christ. If one limb suffers, all the others do too... 2020 presented us with challenges in a way never experienced in years gone by.

Besides all the challenges caused by corona, 2020 was particularly difficult for the residents of Hong Kong. Countless people protested against the introduction of the national security law. Increasingly restrictive regulations, fear of drastic cuts to human rights and political freedom, and the complete subsumption of Hong Kong under the rule of Beijing drove people onto the streets. Ruptures and fissures tore through all classes of society, churches and families. The protests and violence dissipated after the outbreak of the pandemic. The government used all means under the pandemic to systematically crush the opposition. To start with, the parliamentary elections were postponed by one year under the pretext of the pandemic to September 2021, then opposition politicians were excluded from the election and finally arrested for dubious reasons. The same happened to numerous non-

parliamentary opposition leaders and prominent figures in the democracy and protest movement. The annexation of Hong Kong and its complete absorption into the People’s Republic of China seemed inevitable. The effects that this would have on religious freedom and the room for manoeuvre of the churches, theological facilities and civil society as a whole remained to be seen. It was clear that that countless liberal-thinking and above all young people were leaving Hong Kong because they no longer saw any prospect for the future there.

From Beijing’s perspective, the whole situation looked entirely different – with the former special status of Hong Kong viewed as a relic from the shameful British colonial era, and the protest movement in Hong Kong as an attempt to preserve this colonial special status for as long as possible.

Thomas Paulsteiner



THOMAS PAULSTEINER
Department for Papua New Guinea/
Pacific/East Asia

+++ TELEGRAM +++

+++ JANUARY/FEBRUARY +++
Arnim Doerfer travelled to Papua New Guinea, and then Thomas Paulsteiner and Arnim Doerfer to Australia and Fiji.

Corona stranded outgoing volunteers in the lockdown in China. When the severity of the corona situation became clear, the crisis management team commenced efforts to repatriate volunteers and long-term envoys.
Business trip to the LWF in Geneva for in-

tensive talks with Martin Junge and Asia Secretary Philip Lok.

+++ MARCH/APRIL +++
Farewell to the outgoing PPE Expert Committee.

The full impact of corona took its toll on everyday office life. Corona led to close mutual concerns for the various partner churches – reciprocal prayers and solidarity became more important than ever.

+++ MAY/JUNE/JULY +++
Videoconferences made it possible for the partner churches to start getting involved actively and equally in the application process. Lack of “genuine” encounters: Individuals and groups of guests from the partner churches were sorely missed.

+++ SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER +++
The annual meetings with the partner churches didn’t take place. The question arose as to how relations could continue to be nurtured? On the other hand, online formats became increasingly well established.

+++ NOVEMBER/DECEMBER +++
“Rituals in the search for a successful life – Cargo cult movements / Salvation for Sale?” – was a very popular day seminar, attended by over 60 participants.

A partner consultation was conducted online with the Lutheran Church in Singapore.

- STAFF CHANGEOVERS:**
- Returns:**
- Rev. Alois Schwarz (lecturer at the Lutheran Seminary in Baguio, Philippines)
 - Matthias Troeger (music and youth work in PNG)
 - Rev. Knut and Rev. Anne Cramer (lecturers in Logaweng, PNG)
 - Sebastian Kurz (pilot at MAF in PNG)
 - Regine and Martin Weberruss (district missionaries in Asaroka, PNG)
 - Rev. Dr Sung Kim (lecturer at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Hong Kong)
 - Rev. Dr Simon Wiesgickl (lecturer at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Hong Kong)

- New team members:**
- Ms Nazreat Elyas (in the ELC-PNG project office)
 - Dr Stefan Gradl (lecturer at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Hong Kong)



Foto: Thorsten Kraft

Encounters and insights

The points of view were what then made this culmination to my first, springtime encounters with the partner churches and our staff working there especially valuable. They are as wide-ranging as the people who work and hold positions of responsibility in the churches.

My third trip started in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and carried me on to Australia, where I visited a married couple working for the Finke River Mission with Aborigine parishioners in Alice Springs and the surrounding area. After that, I travelled to the headquarters of the Lutheran Church in Australia (LCA) in Adelaide. The trip was rounded off by my visit to the Pacific Theological College (PTC) in Suva, Fiji.

PNG: My first stop on this trip was in the small highlands town of Goroka, which gave me the chance to visit experienced staff who have been working there for many years (photo 1), to get the latest updates on the country and its people. After that, I was plea-

sed to meet and talk to the Catholic Bishop of the Goroka diocese. Together, we sought possibilities for new lines of approach to the research conducted at the ecumenical Melanesian Institute (MI).

One of the highlights of this trip was attending the 32nd synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea (ELC-PNG) in Boana at the end of January. The climax of this highly political event was expected to be the appointments to the three most senior offices in the church. In addition, political figures like to use events of this kind as a platform for peddling their own agenda and forming a close alliance with the churches. PNG refers to itself as a Christian country. Some 80 per cent of the approx. 9 million inhabitants belong to one of the Christian churches, and the ELC-PNG counts its membership as 1.8 Lutherans. Thus the current Prime Minister James Marape, himself a card-carrying Seventh Day Adventist, didn't let the chance go amiss to touch down with his entourage by helicopter on the slopes of the Saruwaged mountain range at Boana in Morobe Province – a major spectacle.

The synod itself was remarkable in terms of its outstanding logistics. Every night throughout, heavy tropical rainstorms hampered the workers' efforts to keep the rough track to the venue through the rainforest clear. In addition, up to 8,000 visitors needed catering and accommodation for the week. The synod is a major event somewhat akin to a Kirchentag in Germany. On the sidelines of the conference, there was a wide range of market and food stalls, theatrical performances, musical gigs, dance displays and sports. The Provincial government helped by installing a large permanent congress hall, which could then continue to serve as an assembly hall for Boana High School, the primary school and the local community after the event.

Locally run nearby hotels and rooms were booked for the invited guests. I had the pleasure of staying at a small guest house in a twin room, which I shared with Church Councillor Hans Giegere. The other rooms were rented out to visitors from the government office in Boana, holidaymakers and trekking groups who were exploring the stunningly beautiful mountainous terrain of the Saruwaged Range on excursions.

Wafi-Golpu is a major copper and gold reserve in Papua New Guinea, about 50 km to the south-west of the port of Lae in Morobe Province. The Wafi-Golpu project is part of the 50:50 Morobe Mining Joint Venture between South African gold producer Harmony Gold and Australian Newcrest Mining Limited, which also owns the Hidden Valley Mine. It encompasses the epithermal gold reserve Wafi and the two porphyry Cu-Au deposits Golpu and Nambonga North. The reserve holds more than 870 million metric tons of mineralised rock containing 8.9 million metric tons of copper resources and 19.3 million ounces of gold resources. This mining area could contain – next to the Grasberg Mine in Indonesian

West New Guinea and the Ojuu Tolgoi project in southern Mongolia – the third-largest gold and copper reserves in the world. (Wikipedia) It is the first underground mining project in PNG and, in geological terms, lies on a fault line known for a lot of movement with a high risk of earthquakes. During my visit in June 2019, a quake measuring 7 on the Richter scale occurred very close by (Bundun). Wafi Golpu is a subject that also rattles the church. I was very impressed by a tent with lots of public display boards depicting and explaining how many young people protested against plans to dump mining spoils in Lae Bay. Thanks to their efforts and the active support of Bishop Jack Urame, the government hasn't yet signed any contracts with the mining company on the disposal of the spoils.

The delegates from the 17 church districts confirmed the incumbent office holders in post with an overwhelming majority. A six-member delegation from the partner church Gereja Kristen Injili Di Tanah Papua (GKI-TP), in translation: The Evangelical Christian Church in Papua Land highlighted the precarious situation for the indigenous population and the Christian churches in West Papua, the part of the Pacific island annexed by Indonesia. West Papua is the name, not accepted by Indonesia, that is used by the indigenous freedom movement for Irian Jaya. For the ELC-PNG delegates at the synod, from the perspective of a church that currently doesn't envisage the ordination of women, it was exciting to see the GKI-TP being represented by three deaconesses. That's bound to generate further discussion within the ELC-PNG. The synod was again a fascinating kaleidoscope of encounters and networks. The anticipated announcement by Bishop Urame heralding the end of the era of outpost missionaries was like a stab to my heart. I associate many fond memories with the impressions I gained from my very early childhood and my home country Papua New Guinea,

during that time. What a pity! Indeed. And yet it is time to move on. The ELC-PNG is an independent church, as was also demonstrated very clearly at this synod.

Lae, a vibrant port town, rallying point for the emerging Wafi Golpu Mine and transportation hub for all deliveries to the highlands, forms a dramatic contrast to life in the rural areas. Hustle and bustle reigns here. The influence of Chinese companies is visible everywhere – in the numerous small shops, the supermarkets and construction markets, the range of goods and the prestigious public buildings, many funded by China. The first Confucius Institute in the Pacific island state of Papua New Guinea (PNG) is being set up here in collaboration with Lae Unitech. The idea is to affiliate it with the universities in Goroka and Port Moresby once it's up and running. The Confucius Institute is a Chinese state education organisation overseen by the Ministry for Education. "The stated aim of the program is to promote Chinese language and culture, support local Chinese teaching internationally, and facilitate cultural exchanges." (Wikipedia)

The ELC-PNG was in a very robust financial state that spring, de facto debt-free. The prospects resulting from this gave good hope. However, the pandemic consuming the world shrank the church's income by around 30 to 50 per cent. Initial hopes that PNG might remain more or less unscathed by the virus dissipated by the end of the year. It remains to be seen how PNG and the ELC-PNG, too, can extricate themselves from this catastrophe. One thing is clear – the Church, with its voice, will remain a place of hope and powerful faith in society.

Lend your prayers for all these people and those who are responsible for them, that they might feel the breath of God and His power, lifting them up in their lives and work.

Despite all fears, the staffing situation is developing positively. We are a long way from being able to refill all the posts requested by the ELC-PNG and other partner churches, but I have faith that God will speak to those who hear His call.

Arnim Doerfer



Foto: Arnim Doerfer

Seizing opportunities of digitalisation

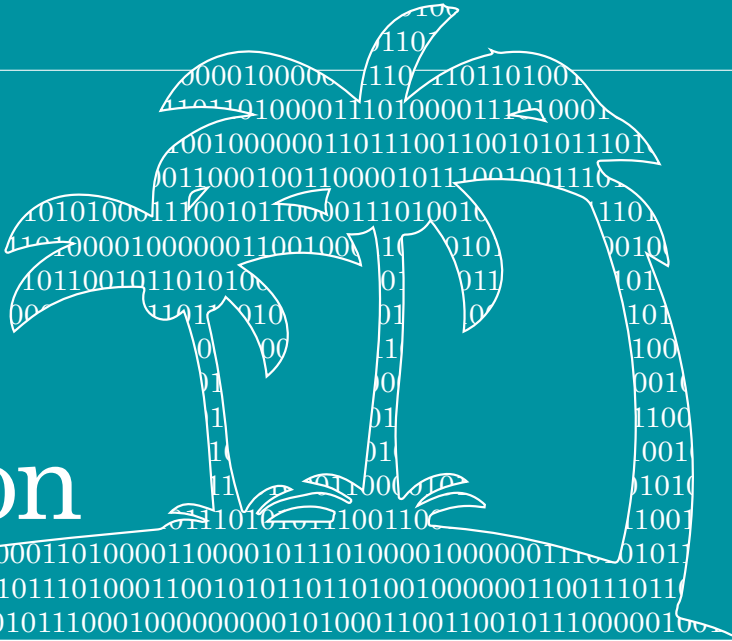


Foto: Dr. Ludwig Wälder

The year 2020 brought important new developments to the Pacific Information Desk:

- 1. A new agreement on the patronship for the Pacific Information Desk was instigated.
- 2. Preparations for the 2021 World Day of Prayer from Vanuatu had us holding our breath.
- 3. We used social media more as a public relations instrument.

The coronavirus offered the team at the Information Desk one decisive advantage – since March 2020, all events, conferences and mee-

tings have taken place online, thus enabling participants in the Pacific region to participate in discussions as easily as those in Germany and Europe. Where it was previously impossible to attend events in Oceania, thanks to digital tools this has suddenly become our daily bread. Thus, besides travel expenditure, we have been able to save working time and also attend far more events than before. In the afternoon or evening, it was easy for us to log into various talks from our own homes – as pure consumers, but of course also as organisers ourselves.

On a critical note, we should also bear in mind that this growing digitalisation also harbours the risk of increasingly blurring the lines between work and free time. After all, previously it was pretty unusual to still be involved in a work event in the evening, as

late as 8 or 10 at night. We should endeavour to strike a good balance between our (even if also personal) interest in exciting digital events and sticking to working hour limits each week.

We used the money that we saved in travel expenditure to purchase books for our Pacific Library and thus boost the scope of our stock (ranging from specialist literature and theological works through to travel guides, novels and poetry). Alongside our film and music archive, we can now offer enquirers a broad spectrum of media for their professional and private research.

ascent in the Pacific in the context of the new silk route project.

Ocean scientist Tharaka Sriram also spoke at the Natural History Society about her visits to maritime retreats in 17 countries between November 2017 and October 2018. From mid-2020, she was going to join the Fiji-to-Vanuatu stage of the research “EXXpedition”. The all-women crew had set sail in 2014 to circumnavigate the world on a mission to uncover environmental pollution in the sea and reveal its effects on the female body.

A few days before corona forced everyone into lockdown, members of the Pacific Network gathered for their

We bolstered our digital skills with the aid of experts at Mission OneWorld. Running conferences online, hosting meetings, sharing screens, forming breakout rooms, compiling questionnaires – no problem! We also conducted entire weekend seminars this way – and even if it is strenuous sitting in front of a screen all day long, it works astonishingly well. We want to continue using these skills even “post-corona”. But despite all the technical finesse, we miss the personal interaction, talking to one another face-to-face, and private small talk about “children, cooking and church” on the sidelines of events.

In the process of digitalising our work, we also created an Instagram account (screenshot to the right) in December to highlight issues, present the work of our Information Desk, show what we offer, and address challenges and

issues in the Pacific region. The account is proving popular amongst young people interested in the Pacific as a counterpart to our Facebook posts, which tend to be followed more by an “older” audience. Follow us on Instagram: #pazifik_infostelle

The new agreement will bring us a step closer to Mission OneWorld. Even if it only comes into force on 1 July 2021, it has already started making waves well in advance. Whereas, until now, we have worked under the

learning with and from one another. By interacting with “foreign” cultures, we can possibly go some way towards overcoming ethno- and euro-centric mindsets.

On 1 April, Julia Ratzmann celebrated her 20th anniversary working as the head of the Pacific Information Desk. The lockdown forced ethnology student Vera Benter from Göttingen to break off her internship at the Information Desk.

We said goodbye to Konstanze Braun, who had been working with us to cover Steffi Haagen’s parental leave. The annual meetings of the Pacific Coordination Forum (PazKo) and the Information Desk’s six-monthly committee meeting were held via Zoom.

patronage of five mission agencies and a multi-denominational association, we will then become Mission OneWorld “in heart and soul”. This is required to fulfil the new compliance regulations implemented by the ELCB’s Audit Office. We greatly regret losing our ecumenical patrons as such, but are pleased that they will remain our cooperation partners, and that nothing will change in terms of what we work on together. Fine-tuning the ag-

+++ JUNE +++
Ute Dilger, World Day of Prayer pastor in the Evangelical Church of Kurhessen-Waldeck, visited the Information Desk and spent the whole day filming videos with the team on all sorts of topics relating to the Pacific and the World Day of Prayer country Vanuatu.

+++ July +++
At an advanced training event for multipliers run by the Evangelical Forum of Development Volunteer Services (eFeF), Steffi Haagen joined forces with Mission OneWorld to organise an online seminar for returnees entitled “Prima Klima?!”

Mission OneWorld’s annual World-

+++ TELEGRAM +++

+++ JANUARY +++
A national conference took place in Wuppertal from 24 to 26 January on “The Politics. The churches. And the future of Papua.” The event was co-organised by the coordination office for the West Papua Network and the church partnership groups. Julia Ratzmann gave a presentation on the support for West Papua by some Paci-

fic island states.
+++ FEBRUARY +++
Political scientist Roland Seib spoke at the joint event run by the Nuremberg Pacific Group and the Natural History Society about “The ascent of China in the Pacific – outlining the problem”. The talk addressed the economic, social and geopolitical effects of this



reement kept us holding our breath the entire year, and is likely to even run into the first half of 2021.

Somewhat shorter than that was Steffi Haagen’s parental leave, until she returned to work in May – and we would like to express our heartfelt thanks once again at this point to Konstanze Braun for covering throughout and providing such wonderful support! We also felt ripples ahead of the World Day of Prayer 2021 focusing on Vanuatu. We already star-

ted preparing for this at the start of the year, by presenting talks, writing articles, giving interviews, filming videos, and above all networking us with enthusiastic supporters of the World Day of Prayer throughout Germany. The continuing high demand for “Kids for the Ocean” already prompted us to commission the printing of a 4th edition. The book by beach-cleaner Anne Mäusbacher, which inclu-

des educational material on avoiding plastic waste and plenty of information about the Pacific, has become sort of a “textbook” on the plastic-free scene and is proving very popular. An English version is also available as an eBook.

We have added a series of six postcards to our sales stock. The pictures are by different artists from Papua New Guinea who each illustrated a different topic such as climate change, violence against women, or protecting the environment and the sea with short, thought-provoking statements. The postcards were produced by our go-to graphic designer Marco Ermann, who has worked closely with us over the years and always impresses us with his designs.

The importance of the work performed by media designers is revealed in the new layout for our Pacific Newsletter. Starting this year, it is now being designed by MOW graphic artists and printed professionally in a four-colour finish. We don’t have to hide the end product under a bushel! We warmly invite you to subscribe to our newsletter free of charge.

Julia Ratzmann and Steffi Haagen

www.pazifik-infostelle.org



Foto: Dr. Ludwig Wälder

wide Church Festival took place online. Julia Ratzmann chaired a panel discussion with five bishops from the ELCB’s partner churches about the corona situation in their countries.

+++ AUGUST +++
On 6 August, we gave a talk on the history of nuclear weapon testing in the Pacific to help commemorate Hiroshima Remembrance Day in Nuremberg. As we were unable to hand out flyers due to corona, we used a “sea of candles” and banners to draw attention to the present-day repercussions of these nuclear tests. A harpist sensitively accompanied the vigil.

+++ SEPTEMBER +++
Ethnology student Vera Benter resumed her internship, working on the impacts of climate change.

She also took part in the global climate strike movement “Fridays for Future” in Nuremberg.

Jakob Holland started his voluntary social year at Mission OneWorld, making himself very useful in the day-to-day business of the Pacific Information Desk. Amongst other things, he provided input for “Pacific News” and sorted out our Pacific Library.

+++ OCTOBER +++
The Pacific Network conducted its first online “retreat” to focus on planning for the future. The participatory film “One Word” about the impacts of climate change on the Marshall Islands was posted online, prompting a spike in the number of requests to the Information Desk for material about the region and this topic.

Julia Ratzmann gave a talk online

addressing the FoodFirst Information and Action Network – FIAN’s topic of the year “Human right to water” entitled “The human right to water in the Pacific island states”, attended by some 35 audience members.

+++ NOVEMBER +++
In conjunction with the Departments for PPO, Mission and Intercultural Studies, and the Association for New Guinea Culture, the Information Desk ran an online day seminar about “Rituals in the search for a successful life. “Cargo cult movements / Salvation for sale?” Pacific Network member Marion Struck-Garbe gave a well-received talk about the presentation of cargo cults in the works of artists from New Guinea.

The annual conclave of the Supervisory Board of the West Papua Net-

work took place online. For the first time, speakers from West Papua were able to join in via a live link and talk remarkably about how human rights have deteriorated in their country. The Pacific Information Desk’s committee meeting was held online again.

+++ DECEMBER +++
At the national campaign day “Disarmament instead of Armament” on 5 December to coincide with the German federal government debating the

budget, Pacific Network members in Hamburg and Nuremberg supported calls to cut the arms budget and to solve social and political problems. Julia Ratzmann attended a large peace demonstration in Nuremberg.



CONSTANT DRIP...

A climate protection project in Nicaragua that appeals to people even if it's not a topic that they really think about.

Partnerships thrive on sharing the same aims and seeking positive changes for the global cycles that interlink us. The climate crisis is one of the major issues that challenge us as one. In 2012 – well before Greta and the Paris Agreement on climate change – a small project slowly but surely started getting off the ground.

The magic number is 599 – that's precisely how many energy-efficient stoves the Lutheran Church of Nicaragua Fe y Esperanza together with families just about surviving as smallholders or casual workers had installed by 2020. The women love the new ovens because they use less wood, produce less soot and are easier to keep clean. This project is part of the church's overall diaconal concept, which has been officially certified by the Klima-Kollekte alliance (www.klima-kollekte.de/en) since 2018. "We have defined four components in our strategy, which are reflected in all our activities," explains Angel Aragón Díaz, the diaconal coordinator. Everyone living in Nicaragua knows what climate change means, even if not all of the 6.5 million inhabitants are fully aware of the mechanisms and some simply talk about the increasingly erratic weather. In recent years, droughts, tornadoes and floods have hit the country in turn, increasingly frequently. Díaz points out that a proactive approach to tackling the climate crisis alongside basic development policy tasks to improve the water supply, reliable food sources and disaster prevention make up one of the key areas of work to secure quality of life in mainly agricultural Nicaragua. His appraisal matches external observations. In 2019, the UN's World Food Programme reported that "for the fifth consecutive year, erratic weather conditions [...] had decimated the corn and bean harvests in the dry corridor in Central America. In total, two million people in Guatemala, Honduras, El



KERSTIN SCHÖNLEBEN
Department for Latin America /
Central America

Salvador and Nicaragua were so badly affected by crop failures as to swell the wave of migration."

Alejandra L., a student assistant specially trained for this project, is responsible for monitoring the energy-efficient stoves in Nicaragua, which involves measuring the CO2 output on the spot and checking the ovens' condition. The data is evaluated at Mission OneWorld to provide proper statistics to Klima-Kollekte. "How do young people in Nicaragua view the question of climate change?" I ask her. Having just proudly reported on the convincing results of the energy-efficient stoves, she turns serious and almost awkward: "I am aware that this is an important subject, which we have to address on a daily basis – we are experiencing the effects of climate change. But in the meantime, fewer and fewer young people are seeking solutions to the climate crisis. There had been many environmental movements in, say, 2017. But now the focus had shifted to the elections and COVID 19. Later she would add: "Perhaps it's not everyone's thing. People say that it's expensive to eat healthily and in a way that protects the environment, and that it costs a lot to change your habits."

+++ TELEGRAM LATEINAMERIKA +++

+++ EL SALVADOR +++
The Salvadorian Lutheran Church (ILS) appointed deaconess Arlete Prochnow from Brazil to strengthen its diaconal profile. While the country was stuck in a harsh lockdown with absolute quarantine, tropical storm Amanda raged over Central America. The country invoked a state of emergency, but people were unable to observe hygiene rules in the shelters.

+++ COSTA RICA +++
The Lutheran Church of Costa Rica (ILCO) took a stance on the issue of human rights in times of pandemic.

+++ NICARAGUA +++
The Lutheran Church "Fe y Esperanza" (ILFE) celebrated its 30th anniversary with an online service of worship and countless well-wishes on Facebook. Many parishioners live in rural areas, so development topics ranging from constructing wells through to seed banks play a key role in the holistic approach of "Misión integral".

+++ HONDURAS +++
Within the space of two weeks, hurricanes ETA and IOTA swept over Central America, ripping off roofs, flooding fields, forcing hundreds of thousands of people to seek refuge in shelters, and wrecking the next harvest. The rural areas in Honduras and Nicaragua were particularly badly hit.

+++ BRAZIL +++
In October, the 32nd synod of the IECLB (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil) was successfully conducted online. The subject encourages people in crisis: "Live baptism – boost hope". The ELCB and the IECLB have been

partnered since 1980. During the autumn synod, the partnership agreement with Brazil was extended once again. The Brazilian church's synod also reaffirmed it.

+++ CILCA +++
For the first time, a member of the younger generation, representing Honduras, was elected as the Chair of the CILCA – the start of a general handover to the next generation?

+++ CORONA +++
Forced to return: 17 volunteers had to curtail their service due to the corona pandemic. Thanks to reliable mentors and structures in the voluntary service, it was possible to retrieve them within just a few days. However, many of them found leaving their voluntary service without being able to say goodbye in person tough... Working as partners has assumed new dimensions in the guise of streamed services of worship and online meetings.

+++ NEW PATHWAYS +++
With Friederike Deeg moving to a new position in Leipzig, Mission OneWorld bade her farewell in July. Not only MOW, but also the partner churches in Latin America would take some time to accustom themselves to her absence.

In my mind's eye, I can see images from The protests in Nicaragua in 2018, when more than 300 people were killed; of flooded houses and fields after the tornadoes in November 2020; of incidence rates that are so low to this day that they're not credible. I can understand why the climate crisis repeatedly has to make way for other topics in people's every-day lives. In 2012, a small project was launched that is still getting off the ground. Calmly and resolutely, it invites families to make one aspect of their everyday lives more protective of the environment. For me, this is representative of the efforts to which the Lutheran churches in Central America go. In times when the picture painted in the media frequently focuses on trendy veggie burgers, which in

Alejandra's experience nowhere near everyone can afford, the churches adopt a different approach – going that bit deeper, more fundamentally, and thus reaching people with their offers ranging from energy-efficient stoves through to drought-resistant seeds, even when they are suffering very different crises.

Kerstin Schönleben

How can we sing?

The role of music in Brazilian society and the church Summary of a talk given by Silvio Meincke



The 24th Brazilian Day on 9 May 2020 was one of the first events that had to be held online due to the corona pandemic. Silvio Meincke appeared virtually as a guest speaker. He is a retired pastor living in Germany. He has composed many songs that are sung by Brazilian congregations.

Christian song is a protest against death.

When the congregation sings together, in the most original sense their songs tell of Easter: Sing a new song, for God has brought the tortured and crucified back to life! This Easter message is the origin of our songs, even if not every one literally recounts this. The song of the Christian community disputes death. Since our songs convey the message of Easter, our singing therefore always has the character of protesting against death. Thus we sing in resistance against all the faces of death; we remove all the rights of violence and crosses in this world. Hence, the songs that we sing open up new horizons: Sing a new song to the Lord, a song against the cross, a song for life.

The social and political context of the congregation must be perceived in the body of songs.

Their settings are very different. The many faces of death vary under different social and political circumstances. And the congregations differ themselves. Think of the very big differences between the parishes throughout our large country of Brazil! Think about the scandalous social dichotomy between the centres and outskirts of all our cities. Think about the social chasm between those people whose death these days from the virus is mourned with tears, and the many others whose death went entirely unnoticed. Think of the social difference between the people for whom everything is possible and allowed, and those who are lacking in everything.

We sing our songs in these different social settings, in which our congregations are embedded. And the Word of God, the Will of God, wants to become flesh in this setting, in this social reality. So if we thank, praise, pray or proclaim hope with our songs, then we can either consider the social and political setting, so that the Word becomes flesh, or we can look away and sing as though we were doing so in the clouds.

If it is true that our songs stem from Easter, and if it is true that our singing and our church music are a protest against all the faces of death, then we cannot sing our songs as if we were in a socially and politically neutral space.

Is there even such a thing as neutral singing?

In reality, each song takes a stance on the situation in which the congregation is singing it – whether the songwriter wants this or not; whether the singers are aware of it or not.

1. Perhaps the congregation is singing a song of praise at its heart because the people gathered there have achieved social prosperity. Songs of praise, in themselves, are good songs. However, songs of praise are no longer good if they silence, hide and sing over the dreadful and scandalous reality of the other side of the social chasm.
2. Perhaps, however, songs of praise serve as sustenance, to draw new strength, to reinforce faith for the fight, including the fight against the faces of death on the outskirts, if the singing also thinks of and includes the outskirts and wishes to overcome the injustice met upon the marginalised.
3. Perhaps the songs explicitly cite the situation, address

it, question it, illuminate it and criticise it. A neutral stance is impossible. There is no neutrality. If someone wishes to opt for neutrality, then in reality they wish for the existing state of affairs to persist.

The songs that the congregation sings bear witness to its attitude towards the social and political reality in which it

lives. Indeed, we can go even further to say that the songs not only reveal the outlook of the congregation, but they also influence its outlook and determine its theological orientation.

Geraldo Grützmann

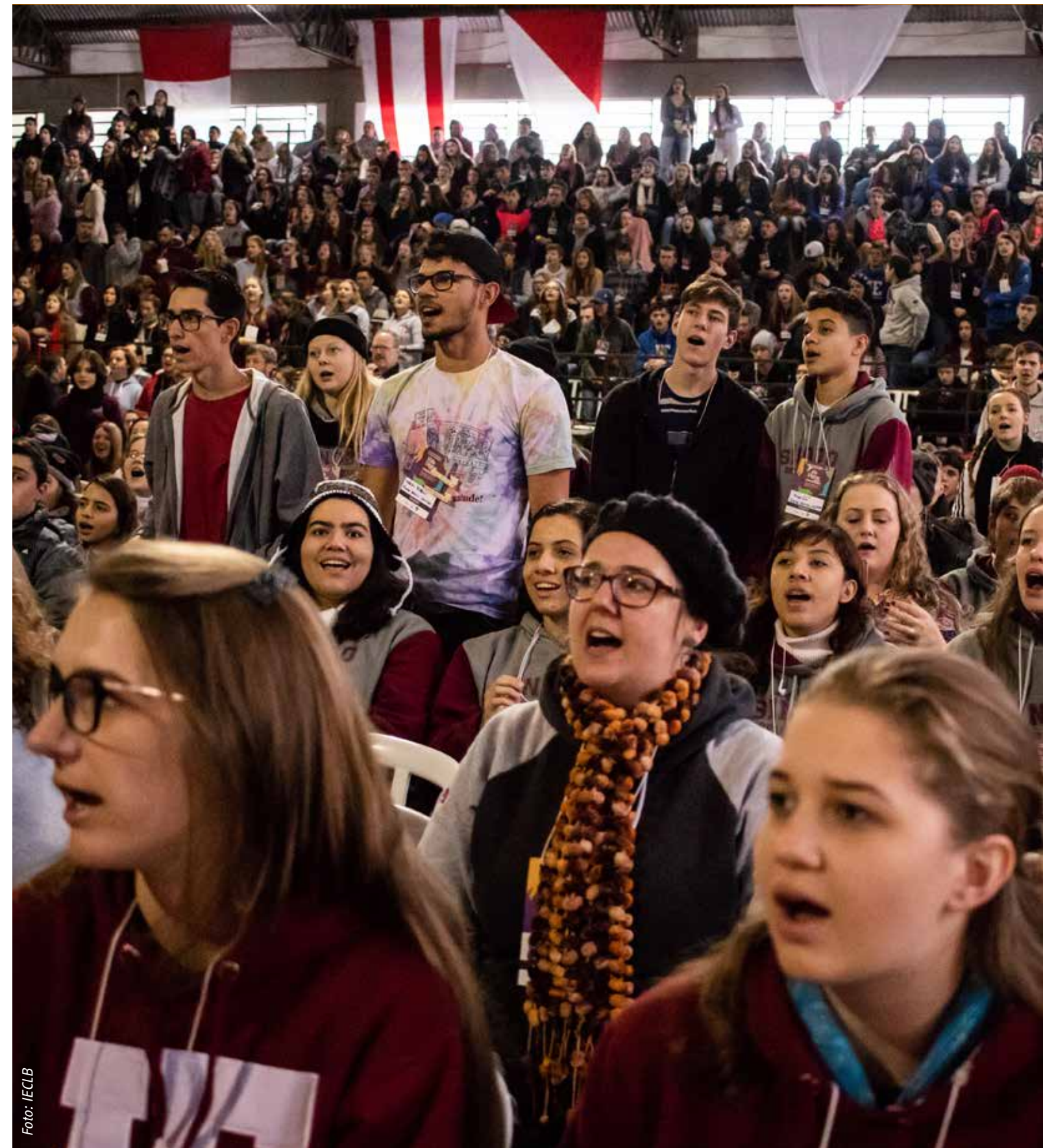


Foto: IECLB

2020 under discussion

International youth meeting online



Like a Tree

DR. GOTTFRIED RÖSCH

Department for Mission and Intercultural Studies



There are varieties of gifts, but the same spirit – global worship

70 young people from all over the world celebrated worship together online.

What does it mean to be a Christian in times of corona? On the day before Whitsun, we investigated this question all over the world, taking our lead from the story of how Peter was sinking (Matthew 14:22-35). During the service of worship, which lasted a good hour, the participants shared songs from different countries, prayed in many languages, and discussed the passage from the Bible in small groups with reference to their particular situation.

Robin Mwanga from Tanzania reported from his group that they had been able to give one another strength: “Faith overcomes fear.” Eloísa Toillier Weber from Brazil said: “In dark times, reading the Bible and talking about our faith gives us warmth and hope.” Many people would appreciate more services of worship like this. Thus a worldwide team had prepared a second service of global worship for 28 November, as a journey of discovery after the variety of gifts that God gives. And there would be more in 2021.



“There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.”
(1. Cor 12,4)

global worship

Together in Christ and in worldwide community we want to trace those „varieties of gifts“ in joint prayer and Bible sharing. We want to experience diversity, exchange hopes and worries, gain new perspectives, reflect our gifts and how we can live in Gods Spirit. We want to believe, love and hope together.

When?	on 2020-11-28 from 12.00h to about 14.00h (UTC) Check which time it is on your place: https://savvytime.com/converter/utc/nov-28-2020/12pm
Where will we meet?	online via zoom – globally connected – in English
Who is invited?	Young people and youth leaders and all those who are active or interested in Lutheran youth work.
How can I participate?	Sign up until 2020-11-26 and you will receive the access data in time.
for questions and support	Johanna Kluge, coordinator for international youth work (EJB), kluge@ejb.de
this global worship is prepared by	Johanna (Germany), Josephine (Australia), Luisa (Germany), Michael (Germany), Natan (Brazil), Robin (Tanzania), Roger (Germany)



Michael Seitz

Sara:
We held our first digital summer school this year: “Like a tree”. I’m still impressed at how we got in touch with young people all over the world. However, switching from a face-to-face event to meeting online wasn’t straight forward at all. I felt a bit uneasy before some of the preparatory meetings, as I kept on having to change your ideas to make sure they would work well online.

Gottfried:
To start with, we had been planning for an analogue event – With a daily timetable, weekly schedule, meeting house, excursions, Wittenberg ... and then suddenly everything was different, completely new: In digital worlds – how was that supposed to work?

Michael:
I’m going to write some stuff here,

even though I’m not allowed ;-)

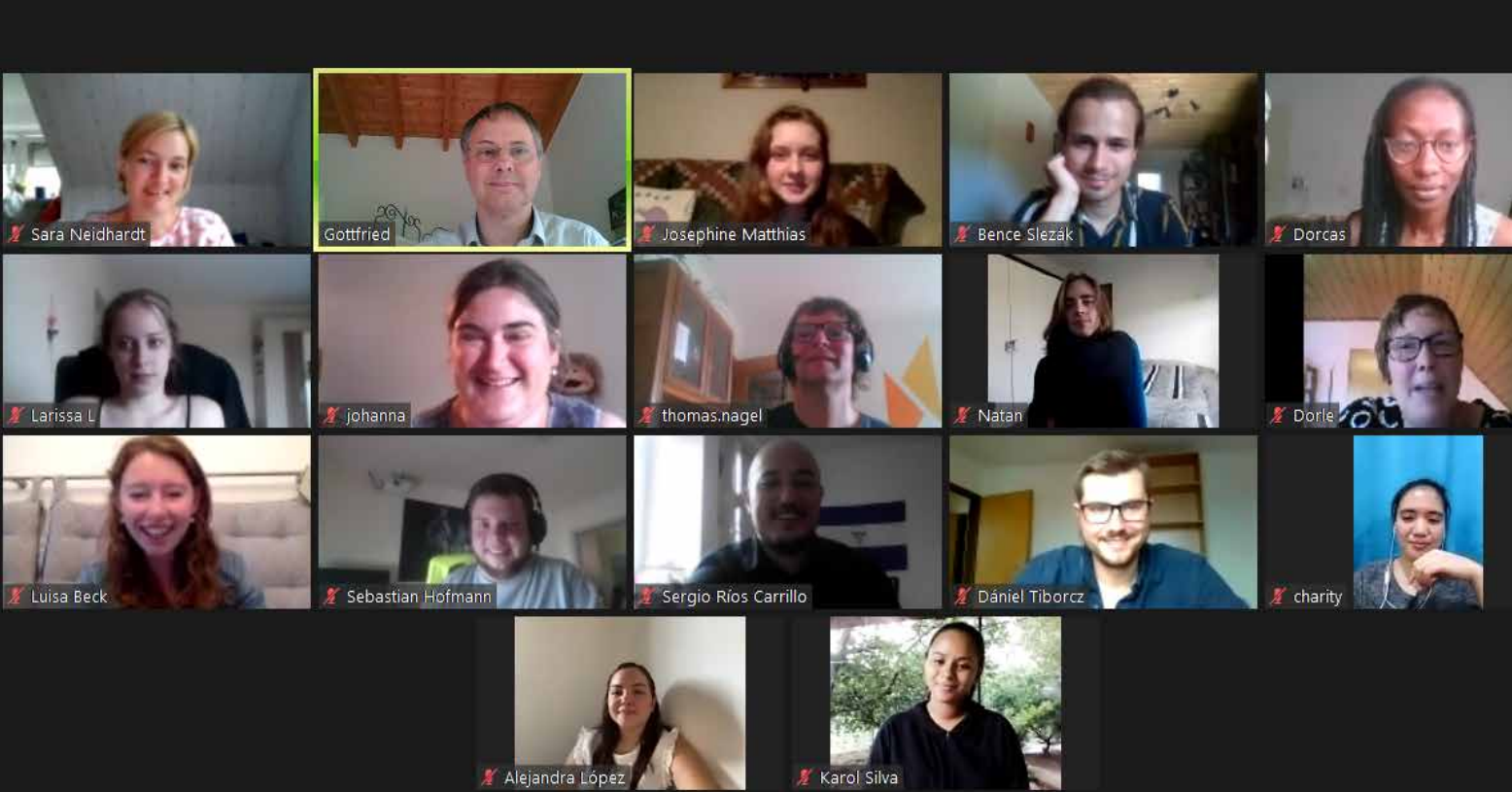
Paula:
I’d like to briefly add my bit here, too, and say how super the concept is. I’m really looking forward to 2021!

Gottfried:
To start with, a lot of things weren’t clear. And now we see affinity and networking online around the world, in relation to church life and spirituality. Borders and distances are changing.

Dorcas:
I remember that I returned from Tanzania the week that preparations for “Like a tree” started to get underway. You have to imagine that preparations kicked off with cancellations. Crazy! I

felt sorry for the participants ... but, thank God, along came this Plan B to move “Like a tree” online! We went for it and broke into the digital world. It wasn’t only our team that grew, but also our ideas.

Sara:
I like looking back on “Like a tree”. It was simply exciting to witness the background noises and images that the participants brought along with them. A crowing cockerel from Latin America, a taxi ride through Mozambique, and a view of a ballroom in Australia. I find it absolutely great that this networking is now continuing with global worship.



+++ NEW STAFF MEMBERS +++



Sung: I am called “Song”. The “u” in my name is pronounced more like an “o”, similar to the English word “song”. When everyone can say it properly, I’ve really taken root. Also a theological name, by the way, as is the case for many Koreans who are the children of pastors. Unfortunately, I’ve not yet managed to get to know all the staff working here in person.

Gottfried: I applaud such a clear Greek name as Dorcas ... (irony) I didn’t know to start with which language Dorcas comes from. It’s from the New Testament.



Dorcas: The name Dorcas is common for pastors’ daughters in Tanzania. It was only when I started going through the stories of the Apostles with Gottfried to look for it that we both realised that the Bible in German opts for the Hebraic version “Tabitha”.

Sara: That’s nice that your names are important to you, but what are you actually here for now at the MI?



Dorcas: Thanks for getting us back on topic, Sara. I am supposed to wake a giant at MOW! My daughter (aged 6) still believes that you shouldn’t wake giants. But in this case, it’s about getting something gigantic moving – the potential that lies within us, our churches and the entire faith community. The “Waking the giant” initiative is also supposed to get MOW, as a church organisation with many networks, to make and demonstrate its own contribution to Global Agenda 2030.

Sung:
... A podcast on how people live out their faith around the world (hopefully everyone’s listened in)
... Talks and essays about China and Hong Kong (with a dash of intercultural theology)
... Organising events, meetings, library administration
Somehow things keep on getting clearer.

Sara: And who are you?

Paula: I’m Paula – a simple name of Italian origin ;) – and this “new” year I’m the community volunteer at MI. We faced a particular challenge – no face-to-face meetings, no international guests, so what do we do with our community volunteer? But I have to say, precisely that makes

things so interesting. So many new, exciting projects have sprung up, for which I am genuinely grateful.

Sung: My favourite place in the building is the World Shop. There’s always a good espresso, nice people (such as Paula, who knows how strong I want), a friendly atmosphere. I hope it can open up properly soon!

Dorcas: Another good place to meet other people is the exhibition, which makes me think of home. I’m sure a lot of staff have mixed feelings between homesickness and longing for far-off places.

Paula: Yes, it’s a real pity about the shop! But as long as we can hold onto our regular customers (our coffee drinkers), I always enjoy stints in the shop.

Michael: It’s shame that meeting up for a coffee or an evening barbecue hasn’t worked out yet. Getting work done and thinking things through together, being creative, that’s one thing, but knowing what someone is interested in outside work is another – and no less important.



Sara: I agree, Michael. But didn’t we all somehow start afresh during the past year? We all had to reorient ourselves, move away from face-to-face events and into digital ones. I think that in MI we did a good job with this reboot. And I’m already looking forward to our online summer schools again this year.



Michael: The dream came true. At last, there was no more arguing “I haven’t got any time for digital stuff”. That’s something I have enjoyed this year – but it’s slowly time to get back to 3D-meetings.

Sung: I found a couple of the online events really superb. It’s great for small groups, in particular! But during some of the meetings I had to attend I dreamed of being able to switch on my avatar to give a friendly nod at the right points.



Paula: You’re right, Sung. I miss the canteen, in particular. Eating lunch with colleagues motivated me for work in the afternoon, as well as being extremely tasty.



Fotos (9): MEW

Zwischen Kommen und Gehen

THE CORONA PANDEMIC SCUPPERED MANY OF THE SOUTH-NORTH VOLUNTEERS' PLANS, BUT THEIR JOY, DEDICATION AND OPEN MINDS HELD FAST.

February and March are the nicest and most exciting time of the year for the South-North volunteers' programme at Mission OneWorld. That's when the new volunteers from our partner churches arrive – from Papua New Guinea, Brazil or Tanzania, for example – and for most of them, it's the first time that they've ever got in an aeroplane and embarked upon such a long journey, all by themselves. Everything in Germany is new – the language, travelling by train or bicycle, the cold ("like a fridge!"), the bread. The volunteers stay for one year, and it's often the case that just before they leave, they really wish that they didn't have to go. After all, they have finally learned everything and can navigate their way self-assuredly around Germany and at work. Saying goodbye to their friends and host family isn't easy, either. Many workplaces also report that they can hardly imagine relinquishing their volunteers.

In March 2020, another set of volunteers said farewell to friends, colleagues, mentors and host families with mixed feelings, to return home. Four others planned to stay on and see a bit more of Germany and Europe. They had arrived later and wanted to complete their year as volunteers. But the corona crisis suddenly threw up many uncertainties, flights were cancelled, and it wasn't clear which countries would permit transit. "Do we want to go home now? Can we even get home?" the volunteers wondered. Amelye Sanga from Tanzania was one of those who actually found the year too short. She was pleased at the news that she could stay a couple of months longer. She felt comfortable in Germany, had learned the language well during the year, and was also highly appreciated and needed on a daily basis in her workplace, a care home for the elderly in Pegnitz. After all, Amelye was already well practised at quickly learning new rules. Life in Germany was in any case completely different from her home village in Tanzania. FFP2 masks and disinfecting hands quickly became routine. She was able to discuss many other uncertainties, such as constantly new contact rules, with her mentor and a large network of people.



Fotos (3): MEW

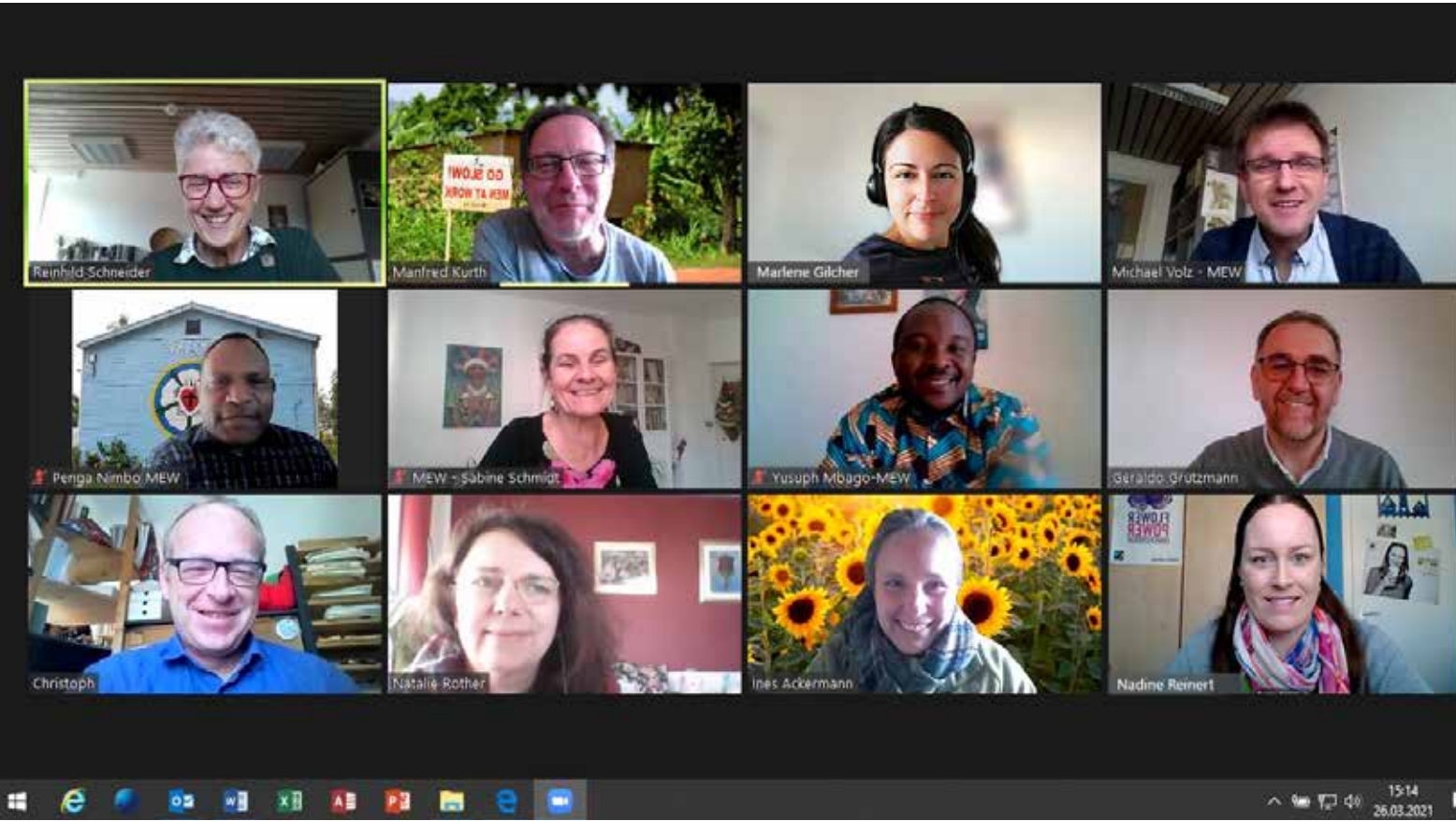
REINHILD SCHNEIDER
Department for Partnership
and Parish Work

Nevertheless, a lot of questions arose where things had been certain before. How long should she stay? When was it safe to travel? Would she be better protected against COVID-19 in Tanzania than in Germany? An important point in answering these questions came at a face-to-face seminar in August 2020. At last, the volunteers got the chance to discuss their joys, fears and plans with one another, without a screen. After that, it was clear to Amelye that now was a good time to go home. She was in luck, as flights were running again. And back in Tanzania, everything was somehow the same as ever again. The right decision. Kemoasingo Kitumbing from Papua New Guinea also worked in a care home for the elderly. Her employer,

too, and above all the residents in the home, were sad when Gima, as she called herself, was supposed to fly home in March 2020. Having already organised a nice farewell event, they were all the happier that Gima could stay, after all. Or had to – for there was no way of travelling to PNG until October 2020 – transit via Singapore or Australia wasn't permitted. Gima enjoyed the time with "her" residents in the care home, with whom she had developed a special affinity, despite the language barrier and many differences. Many of the volunteers hit upon this possibility – that it's possible to communicate and be very close without using much language. Through song, eye contact or laughing, for example. Despite this joy, Gima often felt homesick in her free time, as the uncertainty wore her down and drained a lot of strength from her, her host family and all those around her. Time and again, it looked as if it would be possible to travel. But then corona broke out in Port Moresby, the capital of PNG; after that, new transit regulations in Aus-

tralia. And Gima continued to sit on standby, cases packed. But whenever anyone asked her how she was, she would beam: "I am healthy!" In October, she was finally able to go home. After two weeks' quarantine in Port Moresby, Gima was finally back with her family. During the course of the year, Aaron Jayaraj also flew back to Malaysia, and Leah Kavuli completed her voluntary service. However, in the opposite direction, it wasn't clear at all whether the volunteers would be able to embark upon their big adventure. Nine young people were waiting to set off to Germany for a year, But only two had arrived before the global lockdown took hold. Bianka Österlein Kück from Paraguay even managed to complete a German course in Nuremberg in February 2020. However, uncertainty hit Evelania Schaffel from Brazil even before she set off in March 2020. She called from the airport in Vitória: "They are saying here that my flight will only go as far as Frankfurt; or to Warsaw. I can't fly to Nuremberg.

But of course I want to come, despite lockdown!" She arrived and made it to Nuremberg without speaking a word of German (using Pomeranian instead!). She tackled the many spontaneous challenges en route with a sense of humour and calm. The cancelled German course and the switch from seminars to online meetings didn't upset her either. The important thing was that Bianka and Evelania both had their jobs in the Wichernhaus care home in Altdorf, so they could live and move around together. They spent their whole voluntary year living with the restrictions, wearing FFP2 masks at work, and spending their holidays together, travelling wherever happened to be possible on the day. As they were completing their service, I got to meet Evelania and Bianka in the visitors' room at the Wichernhaus care home. We sat face-to-face, separated by a sheet of plexiglas. That's also how the children living there see their relatives. We read on an info sheet that we weren't allowed to touch one another or hug. These circumstances



made the two volunteers even more aware of how important their work was. For that entire year, they belonged to the small group of people with whom the residents of the care home had close contact. Neither of them ever regretted taking this step. Evelania even extended her service. She had also learned the talent of communicating with eye contact and gestures. But by now that was no longer due to their level of German, but rather their workplace, where these skills are an absolute blessing.

What about the other seven? Unfortunately, it became impossible to enter Germany a few days after Evelania arrived, so we had to postpone all the other voluntary services for a year. That sounds very matter-of-fact, but for the volunteers it means waiting for a year and not knowing if the trip would go ahead after that.

The impression that everything would then return to “normal” turned out to be false, as we know. Jackline Temba and Grace Matandika from Tanzania had already acquired their visas in March 2020 and were determined that they wanted to complete their voluntary service. We stayed in contact all year, and in February 2021 they turned up! The host families and the kindergartens where they were working also waited for a long time. But it was worth it. The room that stood empty for one year, but was still referred to as “Grace’s room”, was finally filled with laughter and life.

Ines Ackermann

+++ TELEGRAM +++

Linking in

As a new member of staff, one of the highlights for me was the annual mission festival in Markt Einersheim, where more than 70 congregation members gathered from the whole deaconry. They would soon be celebrating 50 years of partnership with the Marawaka deaconry in Papua New Guinea.



After 26 years in Papua New Guinea, finding your feet again in Germany and coping with a new workplace is challenging. During the first seven years that I spent in Papua New Guinea, I never had more than four hours of electricity a day, and I used a manual typewriter with blue carbon paper. In my efforts to master new technologies now, I am very grateful for the support of our volunteer.

Sabine Schmidt

“Akufaaye kwa dhiki ndiye rafiki”

“A friend in need is a friend indeed.” This Swahili saying is often used in Tanzania when people talk about true, genuine friendship. If someone is having a difficult time and needs help, a true friend will be there to offer support and comfort. The year 2020 presented our partnerships all over the world with many challenges. Visits were cancelled, partners’ services of worship assumed different formats or didn’t take place at all. Situations like these often weaken unity and solidarity. But what I experienced was something else. Congregations stayed in touch. Prayers were sent and translated. Hope in God was important and led us to keep in contact with one another. “We are keeping you all



in our prayers” or “Stay protected” – we often heard such words. This shows that we are a strong community and draw new strength from mutual encouragement.

Compliance

For two-and-a-half years, one particular phrase has been doing the rounds here: “compliance”. It has caused some turbulence and change. Basically, it’s about how to further improve the ways we implement the rules and laws applicable to financial transfers. Since 2020, criteria have been in development that need fulfilling in advance, so partners have to agree the specific purpose in writing before any money is transferred. This means that everyone involved has to clarify things. The partners at both ends have to attend to the necessary agreements and evidence of use. This can be a painstaking process. On the other hand, some say that relations have been challenged and intensified in the process.

Manfred Kurth

Out of the blue – digital Worldwide Church Festival

The Worldwide Church Festival is the absolute highlight of the year at Mission OneWorld! And it was suddenly supposed to go online because of the pandemic? How’s that supposed to work, we asked ourselves, but then a solution actually cropped up just like that, “out of the blue” – a three-hour-long programme, including an hour’s lunch break in between with recipes from all over the world that people could rustle up at home. During the opening service of worship, Judy Bailey played captivating music, and our Tanzanian friend Emmanuel Kileo gave a moving sermon. Then it was time to decide – would I rather visit



Brazil, Tanzania or Papua New Guinea? A virtual excursion abroad for one hour. At the end, everyone got to take part in a panel discussion with Church President Genz from Brazil, Bishop Shoo from Tanzania, Bishop Urame from Papua New Guinea, and Bishop Bedford-Strohm from Bavaria. We surely wouldn’t have managed to pull that off so quickly in “real life”. It felt like a bit of a miracle.

Christoph von Seggern

“Distancing!?! – Faith connects, love overcomes”

In August, ecumenical staff, volunteers, scholars and their families in Bavaria with MOW met for their annual retreat in Altenstein. This group of 35 people from nine nations talked about the situation in their home countries and here in Germany, about their own experiences in times of social distancing and isolation, about their worries and concern over serious or fatal cases amongst their relatives or friends, and about the strength that faith can give – personally, but precisely also across borders and long-distance. These days offered a ray of light and invigoration for everyone gathered under strict observance of corona regulations in beautiful Lower Franconia.

Reinhild Schneider



25th Anniversary Mission and Partnership Conference

We had to imagine the sparkling wine, but other than that the evening party to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Mission and Partnership Conference (MiPaKo) was a great success – despite the digital format. It started with an interview with Volker von Lepel looking back on the beginnings, followed by a speech by Deaconry Officer Joachim Grytzyk, then Arne Schnütgen’s glimpses into the resolutions and influences of the MiPaKo over the years, and finished off with the address by the current Chair of the Conference, Peter Gürth.

A look ahead to the future didn’t go amiss, either. Gabriele Hoerschelmann launched the MOW campaign “Redemption – not for sale”. Professor Wolfgang Schobert’s keynote speech deliberated the relevance of the topic, as did the discussion groups. The sermon by Yusuph Mbago expanded the view of the understanding of redemption in the global context. After the full and interesting programme, the participants almost felt as if they had met “properly”.

Reinhild Schneider

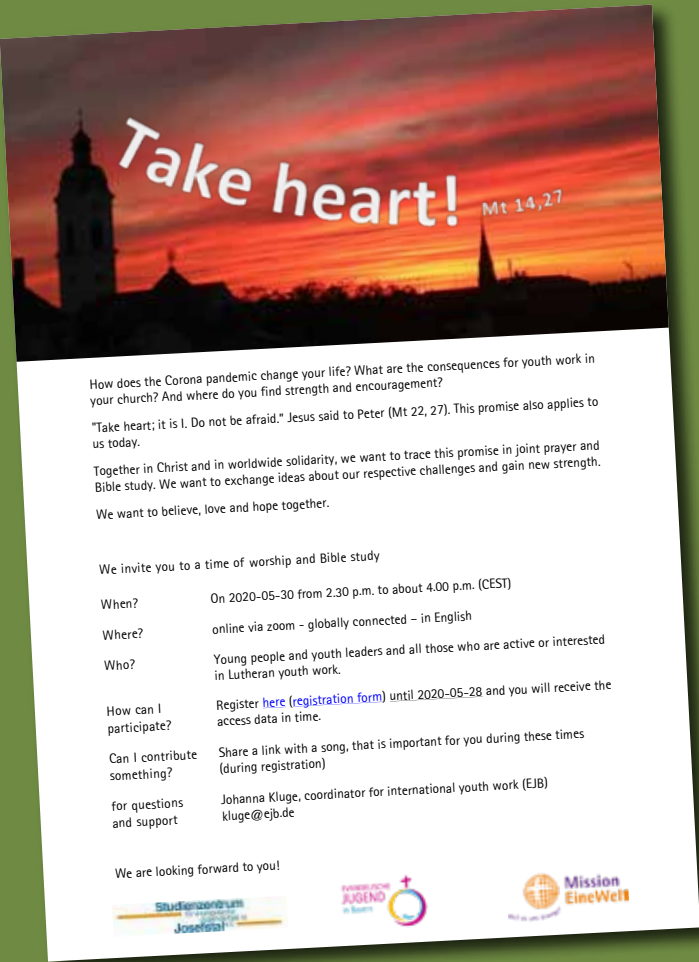
A new emerging partnership

While deaconess Marianne Lorenz-Jallah was undertaking youth work in the Lutheran Church in Liberia (LCL), the idea came about to form a partnership between the deaconesses in Rummelsberg and the National Lutheran Youth Fellowship of the LCL – young women in Liberia and Bavaria wanting to pray together and for one another, learn from each other, and share experiences.

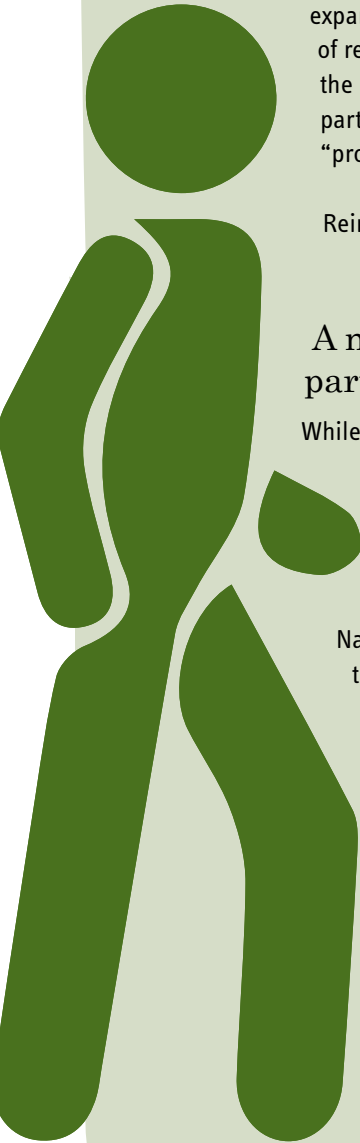
The first joint project aims to award certain young women in Liberia grants to enable them to undertake vocational training and to motivate them to become leaders in youth work at the LCL. A co-authored partnership agreement specifies the aims, and in the meantime the document has been signed by representatives in Bavaria and Liberia.

Things can now get started.

Michael Volz



Fotos: MEW





50 years of Church Development Service Bavaria

An anniversary to celebrate



DR. JÜRGEN BERGMANN
Department for Development and Politics

“All countries are called upon to develop a sustainable society, all countries are ‘developing countries’. For we are dangerously far removed all over the world from a society that focuses on everyone’s welfare while considering the limits of this planet.”

Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche in Bayern, Abteilung C, Ökumene und kirchliches Leben (ed.): Konzeption der Außenbeziehungen der Evangelisch-Lutherischen Kirche in Bayern. Munich 2019, p.18.

Many people don’t know about the Church Development Service (“Kirchlicher Entwicklungsdienst” – KED, for short). That should come as no sur-

prise, As the Church Development Service does not seek to be a prominent “brand”.

What kind of person

“Realise that you are not the solution, but yourselves part of the problem!” – This statement, or sentiment, is just as provocative now as it was 50 years ago, when it helped motivate the foundation of the Church Development Service “KED” in Germany, and then Bavaria in 1970. Initially, it was only a small, mainly church “scene” that took the message to heart. Today, the United Nations at least recognises the need for development in all countries and is calling for the implementation of its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Indeed, it has long been clear that Germany is not only a straggler in some aspects, such as digitalisation, but in some areas is actually heading in the opposite direction, for instance in its use of resources.

General awareness is also growing of the fact that “carrying on as we are” is leading to ecological and social catastrophes. A “major transformation” is called for. The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) also recognises this by now and is following the Protestant

churches’ example by funding domestic education in development policy. Heinrich Bedford-Strohm identifies the Church Development Service as the pioneer in domestic efforts, and rightly so. The fact that global learning is now a fixed part of educational curricula is also a major success for the KED. That would seem reason enough to throw a big party. Some 150 people had already signed up and were looking forward to celebrating the 50th anniversary of KED Bavaria on 24 October 2020. But then the corona pandemic broke out.

The Church Development Service as a patron in Bavaria

During the past seven years alone, funding from KED Bavaria has supported 700 projects, 280 of them development policy educational projects in Bavaria. The majority of the total sum of 8 million euros was allocated to development projects run by our international partners. The third line of funding supported development-related programmes bringing together our worldwide church partners and our dedicated diaconal partnership groups here in Bavaria. This has helped many people around

the world and in Bavaria to experience real-life solidarity.

Without the Church Development Service, there’d be no Bread for the World

Did you happen to know how Bread for the World is funded? The alliance formed between Bread for the World (Stuttgart) and the Evangelical Development Service (Bonn) in 2012 gave Bread for the World (Berlin) access to three more or less equal sources of



+++ TELEGRAM +++



Information Desk to identify the consequences of climate change for countries in the global South, taking the example of the Pacific. In addition, they scrutinised post-colonial viewpoints on climate justice and concepts such as climate racism and the role of “people of colour” in the climate debate, also considering alternative courses of action and possibilities for doing something themselves.

BAVARIAN MOBILE PHONE CAMPAIGN

The Bavarian Mobile Phone Campaign managed to present two highlights despite corona restrictions. In conjunction with the nationwide mobile phone campaigns, we invited people to attend talks and discussions about the issues surrounding raw materials. We easily attracted a keen audience. The series of online events was very well attended and generated many exciting discussions. Almost immediately after, we set up the exhibition “Your mobile phone – a raw materials catastrophe?” in the CPH. The virus granted us a reprieve just at that point, and we were delighted to be able to run face-to-face workshops with classes of school pupils.

FOUNDING OF THE FAIR TOYS ORGANISATION

Following intensive preparations, the Fair Toys Organisation (FTO) was formally founded as a registered association on 14 July 2020. The medium-term aim is to develop a credible seal of quality attesting to socially and environmentally responsible production to display on each toy that earns it. The FairWear Foundation provides an appropriate “blueprint”, as the FTO also focuses on balanced collaboration between business and civil society.



HIROSHIMA REMEMBRANCE DAY

Just as every year, various peace initiatives and Mission OneWorld gathered in Nuremberg city centre on 6 August to commemorate with candles and music the victims of the atomic bomb targeting Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They also recalled the devastating effects of the nuclear tests conducted at Bikini Atoll during the 1940s and 1950s. Furthermore, the groups highlighted the repercussions on health and the environment caused by mining uranium, often in indigenous areas, along with the close correlation between civil and military uses of nuclear power.

FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION:

PRAYER FOR CREATION AND CLIMATE ACTION DAY

A group consisting of former volunteers, interns and multipliers gathered under the banner “System change not climate change” to join the Global Climate Action Day on 25 September 2020 to highlight the urgent need to set a proper agenda for more climate protection and climate justice. During prayers for creation in the forest that day, Gisela Voltz referred to Mark 2:2-12 to actively stand as part of God’s creation.

DEVELOPMENT POLICY SEMINAR ON “POVERTY”

Recently returned volunteers and current South-North volunteers spent a weekend in digital seminars engaging with the subject of “Poverty”. Besides their own experiences in their countries of deployment and home countries, they also considered what poverty is and why wealth is distributed so unevenly around the world. The 25 participants were particularly impressed by the intensive and frank conversation with Klaus Billmeyer from Nuremberg Street Cruisers about his experiences while homeless in the city.

VOLUNTEERS’ SELECTION PROCESS 2021

The selection seminar in November at Mission OneWorld for the International Evangelical Voluntary Services (IEV) was conducted online for the first time. The 17 young applicants met virtually with former volunteers and staff members at Mission OneWorld to get to know one another

as well as possible. Creative digital tools, breakout sessions and virtual coffee breaks helped create a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere. After two full days sat in front of the PC, we selected twelve applicants whom we could send in good conscience to our partner churches in summer 2021.

GERMAN HUMAN RIGHTS FILM PRIZE

The awards ceremony was streamed live for the German Human Rights Prize, hosted by Christoph Süss. “For Sama”, in which a young mother tells her baby about her life in the Syrian Resistance in the form of a diary, made a particularly strong impression. Besides the award winners, cabaret artist Christian Springer also made a surprise appearance. He has been involved in refugee work for years. In the past, only 500 guests had been able to attend in the Tafelhalle in Nuremberg, but this time way over 5,000 were “there”.



At least there is an anniversary publication, numbering 315 pages and entitled “See – Judge – Act”, which starts by explaining the roots of the Church Development Service, exploring the partnerships, and then outlining the many areas of action and

the structures that have evolved. That might sound a bit dull, but it’s a colourful affair, with contributions by well-known associates of the KED. Everything points in one direction: As part of Mission One World, KED Bavaria is an important instrument for

exercising the church’s responsibility towards the world. The anniversary book is available from Erlanger Verlag, priced at € 12.50.

Jürgen Bergmann

The KED is part of Mission OneWorld

funding: donations, state support and KED funding. Over the years, the proportion of state funding has grown considerably – thanks to Minister Gerd Müller and (almost) all members of parliament repeatedly providing funding in excess of the budget originally envisaged by the BMZ. But the most important funding for Bread for the World comes from the KED, as this can be used flexibly. Some 4 million euros of KED funding come from Bavaria each year. Another reason to celebrate.

The move to pool the three fields of work mission, development service and partnership under the name “Mission OneWorld” at the Centre for Partnership, Development and Mission in 2007 was unique nationwide and initially prompted some criticism, but in the meantime it has been hailed a success. The strength and balancing act that this involved are no longer apparent at first glance. In 2007, very different set-ups with even contrary ideas at their root were gathered together – not “incorporated”. All the same, the conviction had won through since the 1990s that mis-

sion and development service belong together. Another reason to celebrate.

...and yet there was no celebration,

Creating justice as one world remains a lofty aim. Churches have worked since their beginnings, and explicitly for at least five decades, to make the world at least somewhat fairer. The role played by KED Bavaria in this respect, and since 2007 as part of Mission OneWorld, is worth celebrating. Heinrich Bedford-Strohm had signed up, as had many guests, some of them ecumenical, and Grupo Sal was planning to help celebrate – but digitally, under corona conditions? No, we didn’t want to celebrate like that.



In the grip of the corona pandemic

Staffing and financial assistance for the partner churches against the background of long-term developments



JOCHEN KRONESTER
Referat Finanzen und Verwaltung

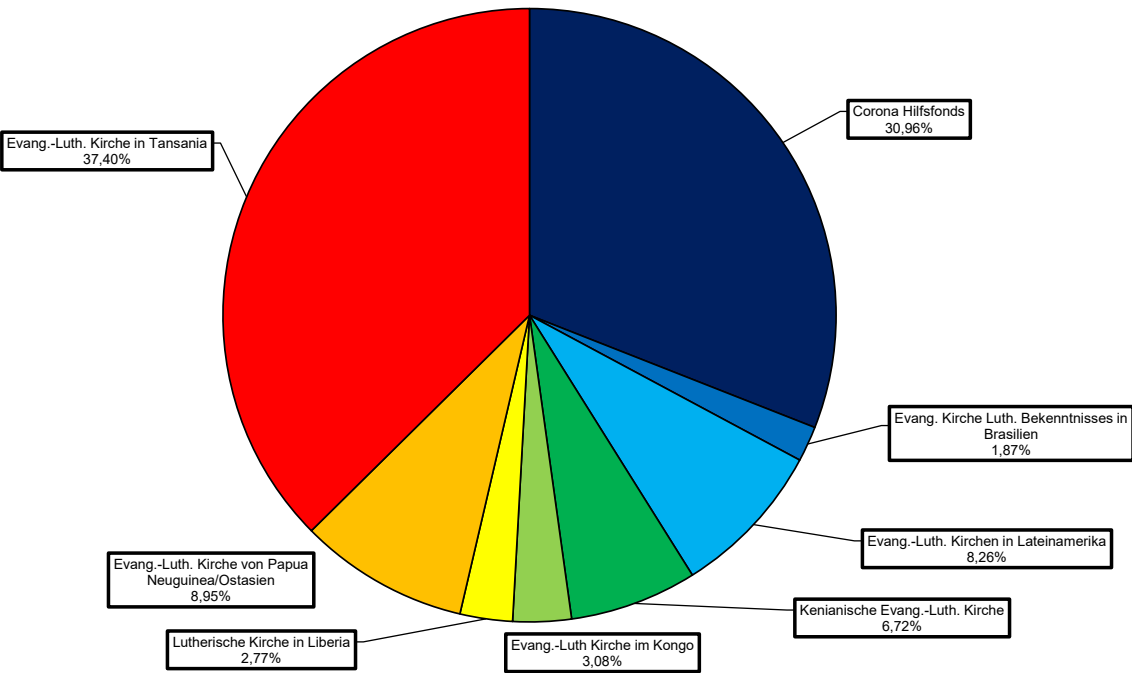
It comes as little surprise that the corona pandemic also bore a very strong influence on Mission OneWorld's balance sheet for 2020. The first case of coronavirus in Germany was diagnosed in Starnberg in Bavaria on 27 January 2020, after which the SARS-CoV-2 virus spread in waves during the following months. Politicians attempted to stop the virus from causing the predicted tidal wave in terms of strain on the healthcare system, the numbers of patients needing intensive care, and corona fatalities by means of lockdown and other measures. The restrictions that were imposed struck a blow to the heart of business and society alike. As of March 2021, we are currently facing the

next wave, which needs breaking, while we also work on battling the virus more effectively by intensifying vaccination campaigns. In summary, we can look back and say that the accounting year was characterised by a great willingness to donate to the newly set-up corona fund to help partner churches deal with the pandemic. In Neuendettelsau, we had to watch conference operations come to an almost complete standstill, and

In total, during the past year, Mission OneWorld received the following donations and gifts over the year:

Breakdown of donations and gifts		Result for 2020
General World Mission tasks		€ 330,944
Corona aid fund		€ 468,802
Evang. Church Luth. Confession in Brazil		€ 28,259
Evang. Luth. Churches in Latin America		€ 125,011
Kenyan Evang. Luth. Church		€ 101,724
Evang. Luth. Church in Congo		€ 46,594
Lutheran Church in Liberia		€ 41,888
Evang. Luth. Church of Papua New Guinea/East Asia		€ 135,567
Evang. Luth. Church in Tanzania		€ 566,249
Total donations and gifts		€ 1,845,038
Income		Result 2020
Third-party subsidies (e.g. Federation)		€ 0
Interest		€ 0
Collections		€ 126,262
Donations and gifts		€ 1,845,038
Bequests		€ 0
Other income		€ 0
Special funds from previous years		€ -123,862
Subsidy from the regional church		€ 12,358,085
Total income		€14,205,523

Break down of donations and gifts in 2020

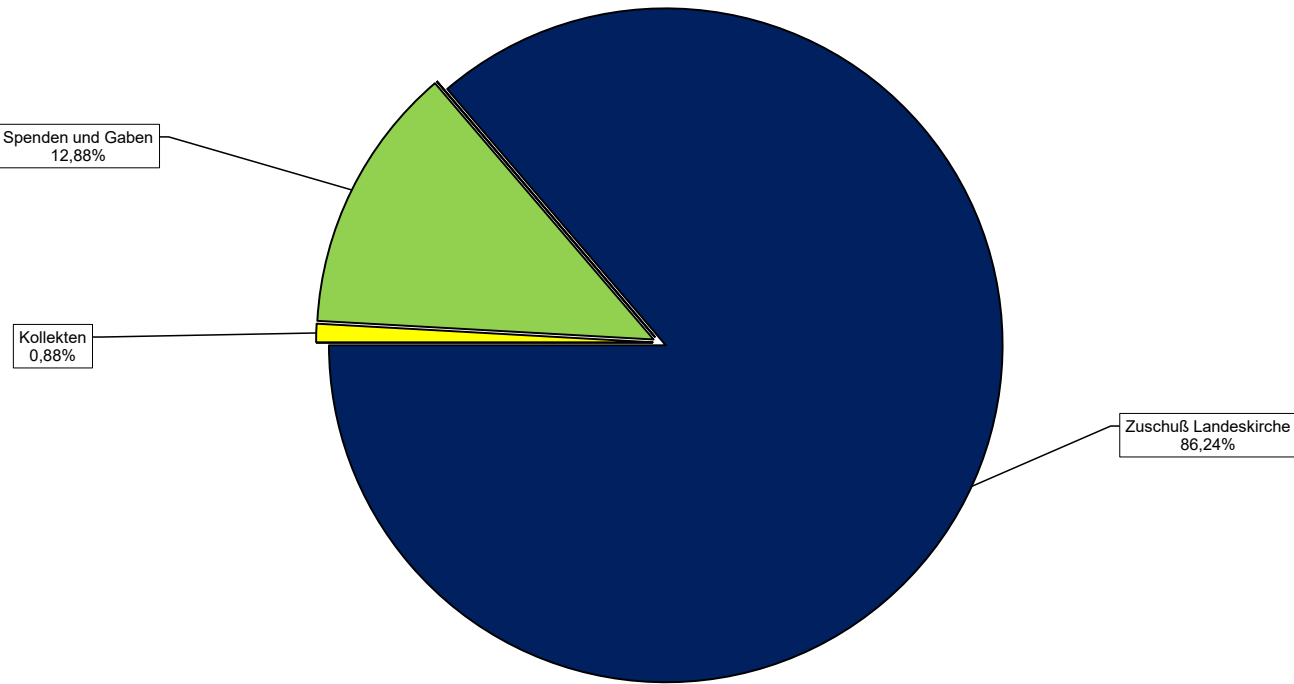


EXPENDITURE		
Area of work	Area of expenditure	Result 2020
Germany	Staffing costs	€ 4,259,902
	Material costs	€ 463,741
	Payments for accommodation and catering	-€ 129,826
	Germany in total	€ 4,593,817
Papua New Guinea, Pacific, East Asia		
PPE	Staffing costs	€ 1,549,002
PPE	Budget subsidies	€ 436,400
PPE	Projects, individual measures	€ 415,986
PPO in total		€ 2,401,388
Africa		
Africa	Staffing costs	€ 1,444,717
Africa	Budget subsidies	€ 595,598
Africa	Projects, individual measures	€ 400,981
Africa in total		€ 2,441,296
Latin America		
Latin America	Staffing costs	€ 572,654
Latin America	Budget subsidies	€ 226,159
Latin America	Projects, individual measures	€ 351,158
Latin America in total		€ 1,149,971
World Mission		
World Mission	General tasks via MOW	€ 340,287
World Mission	Special tasks	€ 0
World Mission	Exchange pastors from overseas	€ 311,458
World Mission	Earmarked special budget	€ 1,471,490
World Mission in total		€ 2,123,235
Total expenditure		€ 12,709,707
Total income		€ 14,205,523
Unspent		-€ 1,495,816

the staff in the kitchen and conference centre had to be sent back on furlough for a long time. At the same time, digital learning, video conferences and other online formats experienced an unimaginable upswing. The effects of the corona crisis on the exchange of specialists and International Evangelical Volunteers continued to generate very noticeable expenditure. Staff recruitment and dispatching envoys to partner churches came to an almost complete halt, and repatriating International Evangelical Volunteers demanded a great deal of effort from everyone concerned.

During the financial year 2020, the regional synod's pretaxation directive was "put on ice". Two additional posts were granted for German activities. First, the position of eLearning officer was made permanent, after proving highly successful and playing an extremely important role during the corona crisis, rigorously propelling the digitalisation of our events, meetings and conferences throughout 2020. Second, the introduction of compliance and the organisation of project processes was reflected in the creation of a compliance post, which was filled and has been performed very successfully by a professional

Overall receipts 2020



compliance manager. In taking these structural measures and wage agreement increases into account, the initial and subsidy budget passed by the regional synod amounted to EUR 12,821,379, which was then reduced in accordance with the supplementary budget to the sum of EUR 12,358,085 indicated in the above table. A very positive development was the increase in donations and gifts received by EUR 387,435 on the previous year to a total of EUR 1,845,037. The extraordinary dedication shown by donors towards the crisis-induced corona aid fund for the benefit of partner churches is particularly noteworthy, raising EUR 251,834 by the end of the year for this special cause. The regional church doubled the sum received by the end of July 2020 from donations aimed at combatting the pandemic in the partner churches from special corona funds to the tune of EUR 216,967. During the budget year 2020, we also received a proportion of the gain from the financial year 2018 amounting to EUR 123,862, booked as "special funds from previous years".

Details of income 2020

The subsidy from the regional church, as mentioned above, was originally set at EUR 12,821,379, which was then reduced in the supplementary budget to the indicated sum of EUR 12,358,085. In terms of income, we were able to record a pleasing increase in donations of EUR 387,435. The evident reason behind this was the corona situation, which was dramatic in parts, in our partner church's countries. Compared to the previous year, the proceeds of collections forwarded to us decreased by EUR 66,581. During this accounting year, unfortunately Mission OneWorld did not benefit from any bequests. The annual financial statement for 2020 contained a proportion of gains of 123,862 euros, thus providing an additional planning sum derived from unspent funds in 2018. Specifications require the separately scheduled expenditure for this to be posted as income, so they are therefore indicated as negative income.

Details of expenditure for 2020

Total expenditure was significantly lower than in previous years, due to the pandemic. The total difference between all income and expenditure amounted to EUR 1,495,816 surplus, which flowed back into the General Church Treasury.

As already cited for the first time in the Annual Report 2019 under the heading "Partnerships in times of increasing challenges all over the world", the entire Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavarian is undergoing a major process of change. Various processes were also prompted and launched in Mission OneWorld. On the one hand, the advance tax with its prescribed annual reduction has influenced our subsidy budget continuously, enduringly and long-term since 2016. On the other, the ELCB's PaC process (PaC = Prospects and Concentration) is a necessary means of addressing the content and future direction of church work. At Mission

OneWorld, we have also been working intensively on the issues of profile and concentration. Always including the external relations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria within the change process permeating the entire church is a daily undertaking for us, in continuously and perceptibly pointing out their significance for the entire church. In the face of major challenges for the regional church as a whole, sight of the worldwide church partners is too quickly lost and deprioritised. In 2020, however, overwhelming solidarity with the partner churches was perceptible throughout the entire Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria. A wide range of funding measures – beyond the above cited pandemic-related Donations and the regional church matching this sum – provided strong financial support for external relations during this global crisis, as instigated by the regional church. Particularly praiseworthy, above and beyond financial

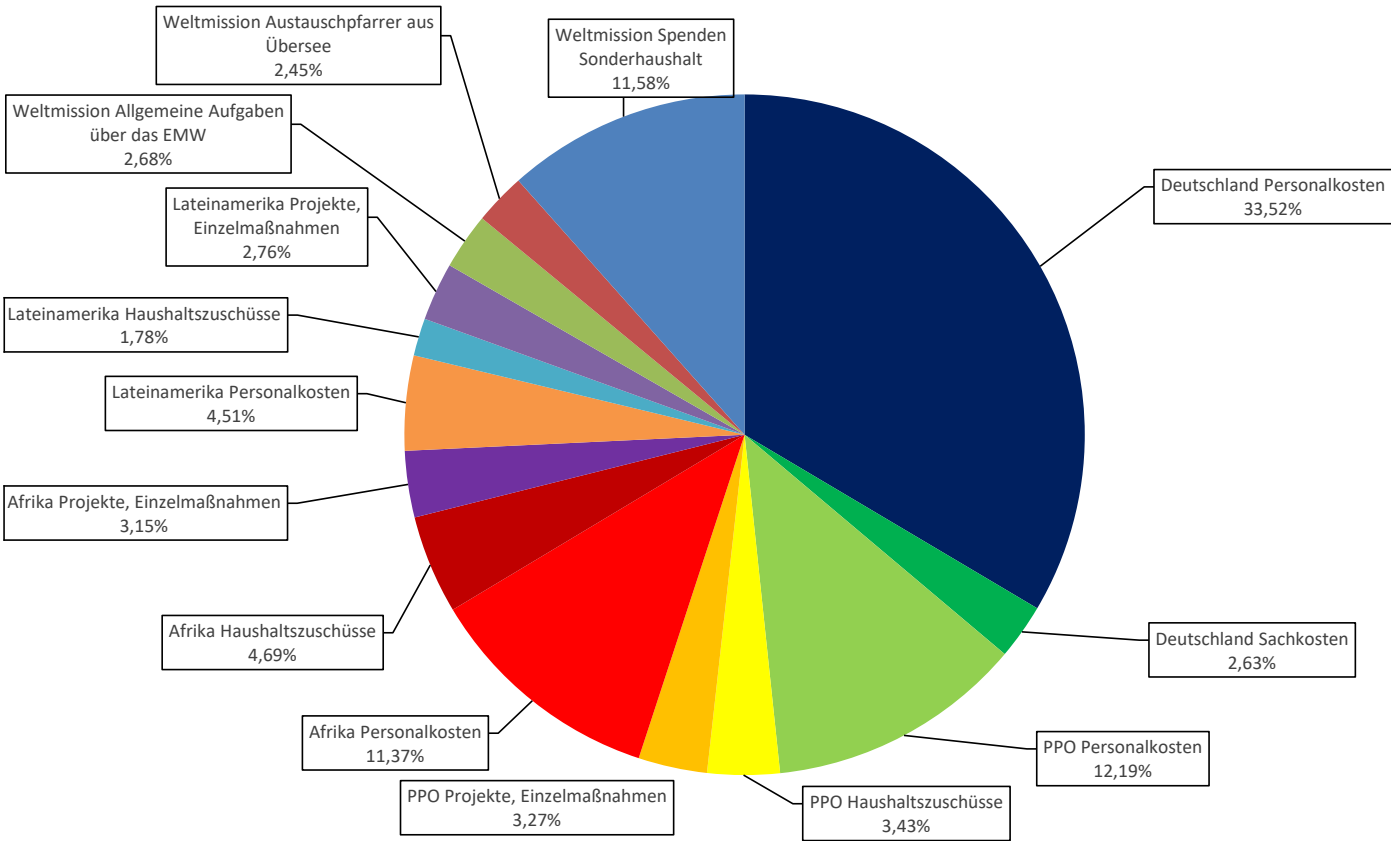
commitment, is the way that, despite the pandemic and all the health risks that it presented, the specialist envoys and their families in the partner churches' countries and projects stayed put. Their presence alone sent out the clearest possible signal of solidarity in the corona crisis, and continues to do so!

With regard to structural change, it should be noted that Mission OneWorld has been working for several years on tailoring its future viability medium-term to accommodate a decreasing budget. At the same time, it is becoming increasingly necessary to attract third-party funding if we are to continue to act as partners for staffing and funding overseas churches, who in some cases are beleaguered by very difficult circumstances. Furthermore, the demands placed upon our partner churches' administrative bodies are increasing with regard to applications for projects and com-

pliance-assured invoicing. However, joint pathways are also being sought in this respect. Since 2019, we have therefore been working on establishing various measures for structuring and introducing compliance. Both accompanying Bavarian partnership groups from church parishes and deaconries and training in the partner churches' projects have become cornerstones of financial support. During the years ahead, the subject of compliance will become an increasingly important focus not only for domestic activities in Germany, but also in the partner churches, and will remain so.

Jochen Kronester

Overall Expenditure in 2020



Fundraisers are networkers



KATRIN BAUER
Fundraising

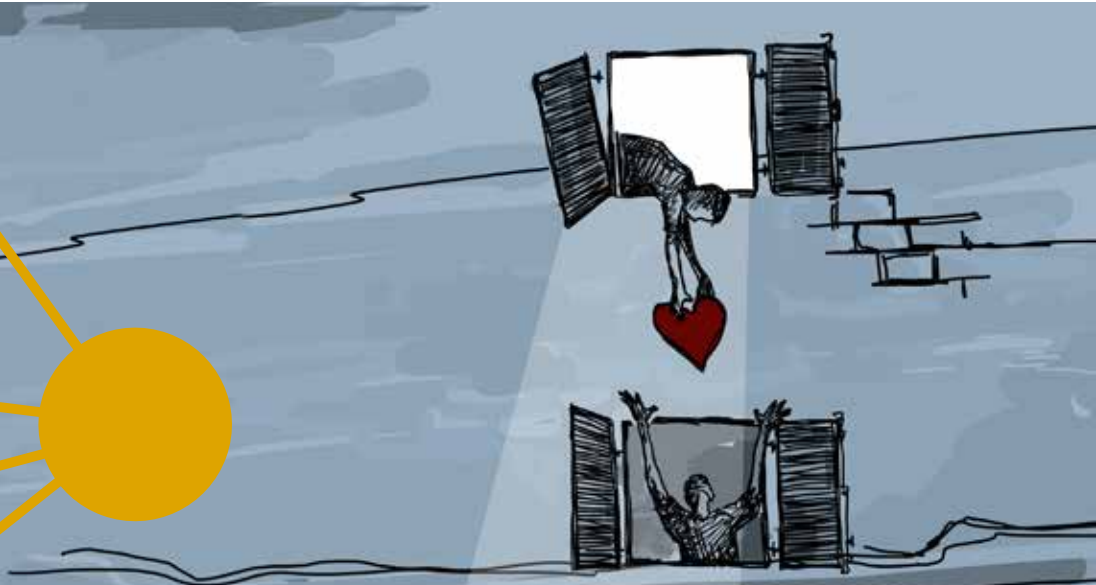
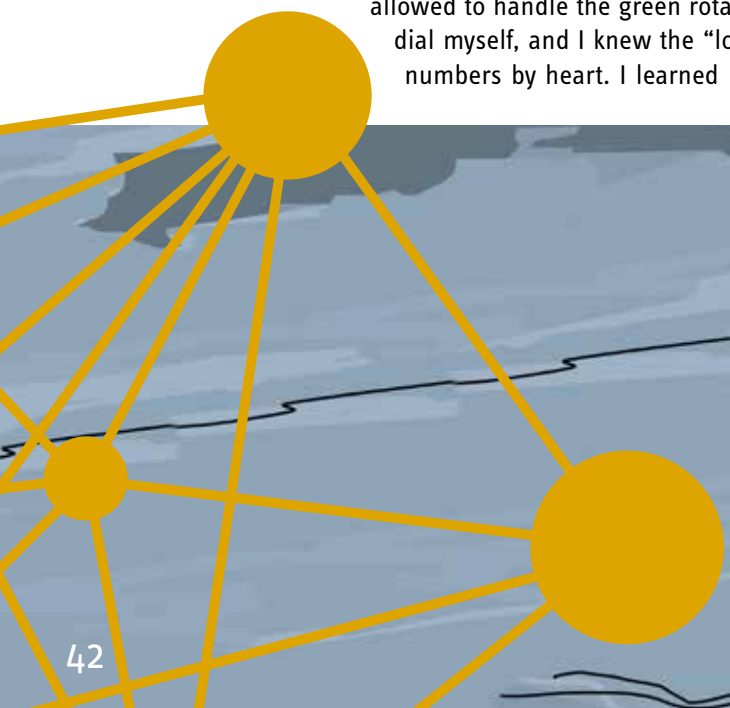


We love interacting with people, we like helping, and we adore setting up contacts. Meeting, informing – in times of corona, this sounds difficult, but it's not.

Even as a child, I learned that you could call Auntie Helga, who lived 20 kilometres away. You could even tell your godmother 250 kilometres away in Munich about your adventures in the kindergarten – albeit over a crackly, lousy connection back then. It wasn't long before I was allowed to handle the green rotating dial myself, and I knew the "long" numbers by heart. I learned how

to communicate on the telephone. The adolescence hit, with its hours of chatting to friends, but along with that also the very long and expensive telephone bills and corresponding "discussions" at the kitchen table. I learned that with a telephone you are never alone. During my time as a trainee, I encountered co-workers who didn't want to talk on the telephone. They felt uncomfortable on the phone and often asked others to talk on their behalf.

My grown-up children don't talk on the phone, either – they text. I get SMSs with short sentences. Their friends get voicemail or "coded" messages – for me they're in code, as I don't know youth jargon these days (I'm not of the "cool" and "hey" generation).



Fotos: Ingrid Walz



Now, in times of the pandemic, many people in all age groups are finally reaching again for the handset and videocalls. I'm really pleased, as I believe that this brings people closer together again. And being close is important. Many people are on their own. Some of them are even lonely.

It's important to stay in touch – with your family, neighbours, colleagues and friends. Not only in good times, when you're celebrating, playing sport, or in the beer garden, but also when you're in need, such as during a pandemic, when loneliness and isolation abound.

It's the same with our sisters and brothers in the partner churches. Many of them got in touch with us right at the start of the crisis to offer their help and expertise, their regrets and sympathy. These messages came via email, or sometimes in the form of a handwritten note added to an official letter. Being in touch, supporting one another, that does us all good!

In Tanzania, for example, for a long time corona was a European disease, far away and intangible. But then the pandemic arrived amongst our partners, too. In Brazil, the virus also hit with full force.

Once again, a good reason to reach for the phone and call colleagues, supporters, friends and benefactors to find ways of supporting one another. That's how we managed to quickly set up an aid fund for urgently needed emergency assistance and rehabilitation. Under the heading "A virus has the world in its grasp – many people in our partner churches are hit particularly hard and urgently need assistance", we launched an appeal and quickly spread the word. The response was overwhelming. The Bavarian Regional Church also offered its help by matching donations 1:1 until the end of July 2020. More than 480,000 euros have been donated to the aid fund so far – an amazing sum! It has been possible to help a great many people already as a result. Food, medical equipment, hygiene measures, training, life-saving medicines and everyday

articles were requested and paid for from this fund. Once again, all kinds of networks were activated, used, intensified, and newly constructed and expanded. As you can tell, I love networks.

Can you still remember where you got your first face mask from? Was it hand-sewn? That also showed the importance of networks. People of all ages sat down at sewing machines to produce masks day and night. They sold, swapped and gave away their works of art. Networks, communities, friends or acquaintances – whatever we call them, Good contacts enrich our lives, and wonderful things often come from them. Through good contact with our colleague Ingrid Walz in Tanzania, we were able to get more than 2,500 cloth masks sewn by young, self-employed seamstresses there. They were handed out for free to oncology patients at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC), nurses, the Ilembula hospital, and to streetworkers at MeWaiKi, for example. Colourful masks were also diligently sewn for members of the Bavarian synod, Who all received this greeting from Tanzania for their session in September 2020 so they could spend their days in Geiselwind well protected and safe. And then there was also Christmas 2020. Christmas during the pandemic. Who would have thought in March that this Christmas we would all have to forego the annual big family gathering? With a heavy heart, we had to keep social distancing, limit ourselves, and do without various beloved traditions. We hit upon the idea of brightening up your countdown to Christmas with an advent calendar. We wanted to encourage you to stay in touch with other people during this difficult time, to send them a postcard again for a change, to surprise them. In this case, too, the response was overwhelming. I hope that during the past

future while observing all the necessary corona precautions! Our directors, my colleague and I received postcards and letters with messages, but also numerous phone calls. Many of you thanked us for the packages and the idea, and also recounted your experiences to us. Some of you found the campaign or packages unnecessary and excessive. I was really pleased about every response from you – our donors and supporters. You are our target group; it's you whom we wish to reach, and to occasionally also thank with acts of this kind. We don't use the funds generated by donations for things like this. Your donations go where you intended. We make sure of this with the aid of our compliance team.

After all, acting as partners means looking after, being there and supporting each other. There are many things that we can share.

Perhaps you might have thought of someone or other while you've been reading this, whom you wish to talk to again after so long. I would be very happy if you would reach for the telephone right now and call them. I hope that you enjoy a good chat.

Remember – you aren't alone! Let's keep in touch and support one another. After all, staying in touch does us good!

Katrin Bauer

few months you have also received some friendly messages, a spontaneous invitation for a cup of coffee or some cake, been taken on a walk, been offered a little treat, or have passed on something nice. Please keep up the creative spirit in



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Foto: Werner Kronenberg



Foto: Ingrid Walz

How to get in touch with us:

E-Mail: firstname.surname@mission-einewelt.de

Main number: 09874 9-

Switchboard	-0
MEW Fax	-330

Directors' Office (LTG)

Hoerschelmann, Dr Gabriele	-1000
Hoerschelmann, D Min Hanns	-1010
Reuter, Anneliese	Secretary -1001
Wagner, Renate	Human Resources -1002
LTG	Fax -3190

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Conference Centre Managers	-1180
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AF	Fax -3120

Department for Latin America (LA)

Schönleben, Kerstin	Head of Department -1600
Bodensteiner, Stefan	Secretary -1601
Grützmann, Geraldo	Regional Secretary for Brazil -1490
LA	Fax -1699

Department for Partnership and Parish Work (PG)

Schönleben, Kerstin	Head of Department -1400
Rother, Natalie	Secretary -1401
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Volz, Michael	African Partnerships -1420
Grützman, Geraldo	LA Partnership Relations -1490
Gilcher, Marlene	Secretary/Assignment Planner -1421
Ackermann, Dr Ines	South-North Volunteers -1410
Nadine Reinert	South-North Volunteers -1410
PG	Fax -3140
Kurth, Manfred (Regional Office – South) +49 (0)89 90 47 60 60	
Geranienweg 8, 85551 Kirchheim Fax: +49 (0)89 90 47 60 61	
von Seggern, Christoph (Regional Office – North)+49 (0)951 30 90 08 90	
Kunigundendamm 15, 86551 Bamberg	

Ecumenical staff

Mbago Yusuph	+49 (0)160 6 226961
Nimbo Penga	+49 (0)157 32643698

Department for Development and Politics (EP)

Bergmann, Dr Jürgen	Head of Department -1800
Thomas, Petra	Secretary -1801
Voltz, Gisela	Education/EW -1820
Brunner, Norbert	STUBE -1860
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Bauriedel, Teresa	Intern. Voluntary Year -1830
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Ballak, Susanne	IEF Secretary -1802
Rios Carillo, Sergio	Ecum. Assistant -1870

NUREMBERG BRANCH

Engelhardt, Annette	Secretary -1803
Königstrasse 64, 90402 Nuremberg	

Erlanger Verlag	Office -1700
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P.O. Box 68, 91561 Neuendettelsau, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0)9874 9 - 0
e-mail: info@mission-einewelt.de
Website: www.mission-einewelt.de

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Mission EineWelt

Hauptstrasse 2

91564 Neuendettelsau, Germany

Tel.: +49 (0)9874 9-1099

Fax: +49 (0)9874 9-330

Nuremberg City Office

Königstrasse 64

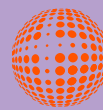
90402 Nuremberg, Germany

Tel: 09874 9-1803

Fax: +49 (0)9874 9-3160

info@mission-einewelt.de

www.mission-einewelt.de/en



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Weil es uns bewegt!